

**Report form for east Multnomah County historical societies’
annual report to the OHS Levy Oversight Committee
Reporting for FY 20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)**

Your name and role:	Leslie Radke, Treasurer, Mark Moore, Director																
Name of organization:	Gresham Historical Society																
Contact information for organization:	radkel@frontier.com , 503-310-7442 director@greshamhistorical.org , 503-661-0347																
Reporting for levy funds																	
Total levy funds received:	\$40,000.00																
Date(s) levy funds were received:	7-22-2019 (\$20,000) 2-4-20 (\$20,000)																
Details for how levy funds have been spent and/or budgeted for:	<table> <tr> <td>Balance forward 7-1-2019</td> <td>\$ 5473.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Levy funds 7-22-2019</td> <td>20000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Levy funds 2-4-2020</td> <td>20000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payroll</td> <td>- 37551.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payroll service fees</td> <td>- 825.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAIF</td> <td>- 199.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collections expense</td> <td>- 825.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance 7-1-2020</td> <td>\$ 7132.65</td> </tr> </table>	Balance forward 7-1-2019	\$ 5473.73	Levy funds 7-22-2019	20000.00	Levy funds 2-4-2020	20000.00	Payroll	- 37551.23	Payroll service fees	- 825.04	SAIF	- 199.83	Collections expense	- 825.17	Balance 7-1-2020	\$ 7132.65
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Summary of how levy funds are helping your organization “protect the collection of Oregon history documents and artifacts, and public access to those.” (taken from ballot language for Measure 26-118)	<p>The levy funds are primarily used for the salary expense of our Executive Director. We are able to open to the public five days a week which includes weekends. The Director is available to conduct day to day operations, collections management, and research assistance.</p> <p>Our beautiful former Carnegie Library museum is now 107 years old. Our primary focus for 2019/2020 was on repairs necessary to preserve and protect our collections that were being affected by water leakage in the east foundation wall which allowed moisture and mold to form on some of the artifacts.</p>																

	<p>The wall had been patched many times before over the years but never to the extent that our basement storage area remained dry. We obtained four grants totaling \$17,000 for work that we expected to exceed +\$46,000.00 in expense:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. repairing the foundation crack on the east exterior wall of the museum 2. installation of an interior leak water management system and new water heater 3. improvements to the artifact storage room which included removing the non-collection items, installing new shelving, installing a ductless heating temperature control system, assessing the collection, re-housing and re-shelving the artifacts, and updating our collection policy and disaster preparedness plan.
<p>Summary of how levy funds are being spent in a manner reflective of Multnomah County's diverse cultures.</p>	<p>Working towards the completion of the grants was our primary focus in 2019/2020. Our newest exhibit that we are developing will highlight Gresham's history of diversity. We want to show how people of all backgrounds made up early Gresham.</p>
<p>Anything else you want the Levy Oversight Committee to know?</p>	
<p>Without an Executive Director and the salary income provided by the Multnomah County levy funds, we would not have been able to gain the grants or do the repairs with just our volunteers and board members, and continue to rotate our exhibits twice a year, open our doors five days a week, conduct cemetery tours, publish our website and Facebook posts, mail a quarterly newsletter, host hundreds of families for photos with Santa, and participate in community events like the Teddy Bear parade and Trick or Treating in Historic Downtown Gresham.</p> <p>We thank you and all the voters in Multnomah County for the financial support of these dollars that are so vital to our organization!</p>	

In researching the history of diversity in Gresham for our exhibits, we studied the early settlers that made their home in the Gresham area and we have been able to add their stories to our website and Facebook pages as well as feature them in our publications.

Prior to the arrival of white settlers, the Gresham area was heavily forested. Boring lava domes surrounded the area, and swamps dotted the land. It appears as though no tribes lived on the land where Gresham now stands, but three Chinook tribes, the Multnomah, the Wasco, and the Clackamas, lived in neighboring areas along the Columbia River. These three tribes may have used the area to forage for food, hunt, or simply pass through while traveling to trade.

The first Swedish settlement in Oregon was in Powell Valley, fourteen miles east of Portland. Swedish immigrants began coming to Gresham and Powell Valley as early as 1875, with the largest groups arriving in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Most Swedish immigrants in Oregon were second-stage immigrants, meaning they had previously settled in other states prior to coming west. Most emigrated from states in the Midwest such as Kansas and Minnesota. Many came west in search of fertile farm land, while others were drawn to Oregon because the landscape reminded them of home.

Like the Swedish, German immigrants in Oregon were second wave immigrants coming from New York or Midwestern states like Ohio, Wisconsin, or Missouri. Large numbers of Germans immigrated to Oregon in the 1880s. Some came looking for fertile farm land, while others were recruited to work on railroads.

The first generation of Japanese immigrants, known as the *Issei*, arrived in Oregon between the years 1885-1952. Many came on ships across the Pacific, landing in California or Washington and traveled from there. Immigrants arriving in the 1890s had been promised railroad jobs, but found upon arrival that they were non-existent. A large portion of Japanese immigrants became farmers, as many of them had been farmers in Japan.

Immigrants from Mexico, Central America, and South America have been coming to Oregon since the beginning of the 20th century and earlier. One early Hispanic Gresham resident was a man by the name of Frank Escobar. He resided in Gresham at the beginning of the 20th century, and was a well-known and much liked town eccentric.

In its early days, Gresham had few African American residents. Long-time citizens recall accounts of two African American residents who lived in the town in the early 20th century; Mr. Wilson and Charley Rivers. While Mr. Wilson is remembered to have been a shoe shiner, Charley Rivers is remembered as a handy man; someone who was for hire for any number of chores and tasks. In our quest to find stories of diversity in Gresham's history, we discovered the story of Northwest Jazz Legend Floyd Standifer, a graduate of Gresham High School in 1946. He grew up in Gresham and he was the vice-president of the Senior Class. A world-class performer, Floyd Standifer toured Europe with the Quincy Jones Band, performed with Ray Charles and Nat "King" Cole, and he became a fixture on the Seattle jazz scene.

Immigration from the former Soviet Union occurred in waves. The first group began immigrating at the beginning of the 20th century, a second wave came over following World War II, and the most recent wave of Russian immigrants began coming to the United States and Oregon in 1988. The largest groups of immigrants came in 1992 and 1996, after which immigration began to trail off.