

Report form for east Multnomah County historical societies' annual report to the OHS Levy Oversight Committee

Reporting for FY 2019 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Your name and role:	Erin Janssens, President of the Board; Marilee Thompson, THS Treasurer	
Historical Society you represent		
Name of organization:	Troutdale Historical Society	
Contact information for organization:	LeAnn Stephan (503) 661-2164 troutdalehistory@gmail.com	
Reporting for levy funds		
Total levy funds received:	\$40,000	
Date(s) levy funds were received:	\$20,000 – July 2019 \$20,000 – January 2020	
Details for how levy funds have been spent and/or budgeted for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 1227 – Office Equipment \$ 551 – Archival Supplies \$ 501 – Information Technology \$ 1126 – Museums Alarms \$ 3842 – Telecommunications \$ 2654 – Museums Utilities-Heating and Electricity \$ 1352 – Office Supplies \$ 1807 – Advertising, Displays, Signage, Marketing \$ 1588 – Printing \$ 798 – Postage \$ 54 – Reference Material \$ 1980 – Facility & Equipment Maintenance \$ 1834 – Professional Fees (Accounting) \$ 809 – Insurance \$ 465 – Volunteer Expense \$ 1661 – Salaries <p>\$17,751 reserved for sustainability</p>	

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)

The Troutdale Historical Society (THS) maintains three museums: Fred E Harlow House; the Depot Rail Museum; and the Barn Exhibit Hall – Byway of the People exhibit. During FY 2019 the Levy funded our asset acquisitions and helped cover our operating expenditures of the three museums in funding our alarm systems, heating, electricity, and telecommunications for these three museums.

Building Maintenance – Ongoing maintenance is required on the Harlow House, a farmhouse built in 1900. Levy funds helped maintain this Museum.

Grant Funds – The Levy helped raise matching funds to secure grants from Metro/Troutdale Community Enhancement Project to repaint our Barn Exhibit Hall; to provide a 3’ x 6’ history panel presented to FedEx to educate their employees of the historic land in which they work – including the Chinookan people, Lewis & Clark camp ground, pioneer camp ground, ranchers, Reynolds Metals/WWII, and the accidental landing of a DC-8 plane at the Troutdale Airport; and to acquire a much needed storage shed for our outdoor concert chairs and maintenance equipment – providing free cultural experiences for the community.

Community Outreach Programs – Because the Levy funds covered some general expenses, it allowed THS to provide monthly history lectures on local history, which as of June 23 are offered virtually through Facebook Live and ZOOM. Our THS programs, offered three times a year, brought awareness of the history of THS and its contributions to Troutdale. These history events included *Rise Above: The Heppner Flood of 1903* by author Peg Willis, *Flood of Memories - 1964* presented by a panel who experienced the Sandy River flood. Our April 2020 annual meeting and program presentation of the Fires of Troutdale by Sharon was cancelled due to the pandemic. In addition, our cemetery & geology history tours, outdoor summer concerts, and our October program were cancelled. Even with these cancellations and loss of revenue from museums guests, we have been able to maintain one full-time and one part-time employees through the revenue this levy has provided.

Protection of Historic Documents – In July 2019 we hired two professional historian assessors – Historic Architecture architect and a Conservator to evaluate our historic structures and artifact collection. This was possible through the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) partial funding program with a 1:1 match requirement. We were given an assessment report of their recommendations for preserving our historic structures and artifacts. We now have a prioritized guideline to work on in fulfilling those recommendations to preserve and protect our historic documents/artifacts and properly maintain our historic buildings.

	<p>In these and many other ways, the levy funds help THS to continue its mission to "...to stimulate interest in the knowledge of the locality's past."</p>
<p>Summary of how levy funds are being spent in a manner reflective of Multnomah County's diverse cultures.</p>	<p>THS is active in protecting and researching Native American sites in and around Troutdale. Presentations are given to local schools on the history of Native Americans from this area.</p> <p>We continue research on one of Troutdale's few black residents who lived at the Harlow House in a small cabin/shack provided for him. Injured in a logging accident in the days when there was no treatment for such injuries, he could not contain his urine and so lived a life of isolation, making money doing yard and garden work. Research, so far, has not revealed a full name. We have a photo study of his cabin.</p> <p>We preserve, through oral histories and artifacts, information about the lives and contributions of Japanese Americans in our community. There is discussion of an interpretive panel on the corner of a new apartment complex, built on the last field owned by berry grower Kaz Fujii. Fujii was not interned in World War II because he was already in the military in Texas. While his family went to Idaho to work in fields there -- an alternative to the internment camps -- Kaz always said the U.S. Army gave him a gun and told him to defend the camp.</p> <p>Just prior to the March pandemic shut down, we were working on a display of our local military women nurses of WWII. Their story and a display of their uniforms will be on display at the Harlow House once we are able to re-open our museum.</p> <p>During our pre-pandemic times, we encouraged visits to our three museums by local school groups, entertaining and educating hundreds of students each year. Such tours were offered without charge. Many groups are predominantly low income, representing a multitude of cultures, and opportunities such as visits to our museums are rare in their lives. We were visited by senior centers and adult foster care tour groups offering accessibility for ease of navigating our museums and special attention to their needs. THS is exploring ways to continue to give these groups the opportunity to learn of our history during the pandemic by other means, including expansion of our web site.</p> <p>THS volunteers vary in age from High School/College students to retired citizens. Male and female volunteers contribute to the success of THS. A diverse group of people serve on our Board of Directors – male and female of varied age groups,</p>

with a diversity of political, religious, sexual orientation, and varied ethnicities – Modoc/Klamath Native American Tribe and from the Latin American community.

An area that we would like to explore further and share with our community is the contribution by Jewish families in Troutdale's during its beginnings – Aaron Fox, our first mayor, postmaster, and businessman. His brother-in-law, Emanuel May was a partner in the Union Meat Company packing plant that employed many of Troutdale's residents. Both were German/Jewish immigrants.

Anything else you want the Levy Oversight Committee to know?

The volunteers at THS are very grateful and appreciative to the Multnomah County taxpayers for this levy, and for its renewal in 2016. With funding like this, more volunteer hours and energy can be spent on educational programs and projects. In addition to the items listed above, THS raises funds, including dues and donations, which cover other expenses including, producing our newsletter (Bygone Times), communication expenses, maintaining a website, and paying for an Executive Director (36-40 hours/week) and a Administrative Assistant (15 hours/week). A Reser Family Foundation grant in the amount of \$4950 was awarded through the Oregon Community Foundation as a response for emergency funding due to COVID-19 pandemic.