



**Program #10023 - OHS Local Option Levy** 7/24/2020

**Department:** Nondepartmental      **Program Contact:** Eric Arellano  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating Program      **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) is a private not-for-profit entity founded in 1898. Since 1899, it has received appropriations from 1) state government (except 2002-6) in recognition of its operation of the state history museum and a large Oregon history research library; 2) Multnomah County (\$335k per year, 1999-2003) as a participant in the county library levy; and 3) Multnomah County special purpose levy 26-118 in November 2010 that provides for levy support at the rate of \$0.05 per thousand of assessed value and renewal of the second five-year period at the same rate.

**Program Summary**

OHS operates the Oregon History Museum, the Davies Family Research Library, and educational programs for adults, families and school groups (and also serves as the Multnomah County history repository). After nearly a decade of cuts in appropriations, programs, and service hours, the levy funding (which started in 2011) has provided basic operational support, as well as funding to underwrite the improved hours of service in the library, free admission to residents of Multnomah County, improved collections development and care, and new and compelling exhibits and programming. OHS is committed to serving the diverse communities of Multnomah County and the State of Oregon, and it reflects that commitment in every aspect of its operations.

Four east Multnomah County historical societies-- East County Historical Organization, Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society, and Crown Point Country Historical Society--will together receive \$160,000 annually from the levy proceeds. These funds are critical to the continued operation of these four organizations. They levy allocates the balance, estimated at \$3.2 million in FY 2019-20 to the Oregon Historical Society for its programs and operations.

In 2019, OHS opened a new 7,000 square foot permanent exhibit, Experience Oregon. The exhibit has received wide praise for how it honestly addresses all of Oregon history, including the mistreatment of minority populations. Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II exhibit displayed the story of thousands of African Americans who rushed to enlist, intent on serving the nation that treated them as second-class citizens.

**Performance Measures**

<b>Measure Type</b>	<b>Primary Measure</b>	<b>FY19 Actual</b>	<b>FY20 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY20 Estimate</b>	<b>FY21 Offer</b>
Output	Multnomah County citizens admitted free of charge	27,707	27,500	32,632	35,000
Outcome	Improved library hours per week	32	32	32	32
Output	Increased number of public programs	253	250	326	330
Quality	Care of Collections through additional curator/registrar	1	1	3	1

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Due to levy funding, public programs continue to increase in number as well as attendance. The diversity of public program topics, such as Exiled to Nowhere: A Symposium on the Rohingya Crisis, a six part symposium series on genocide and gender based violence; Wild Wild History: The Rise and Fall of Rajneeshpuram; Islamophobia and White Nationalism in Oregon, are just a few of the diverse program topics that drew new audiences and increased attendance by 29%.

## Legal / Contractual Obligation

Measure 26-118 provides the Oregon Historical Society with a five-year property tax levy at the rate of \$0.05 per thousand dollars of assessed value. Four east county historical societies (Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes, Gresham, Troutdale, and Crown Point Country) will together receive \$160,000 per year from the levy proceeds.

This levy will continue through FY 2020-21.

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
Contractual Services	\$0	\$3,453,288	\$0	\$3,403,091
Internal Services	\$0	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,460,788</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,410,591</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$3,460,788</b>		<b>\$3,410,591</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Taxes	\$0	\$3,382,788	\$0	\$3,385,430
Interest	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$22,161
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,460,788</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,410,591</b>

## Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$7,500 in indirect revenues.

This is a dedicated local option property tax levy collected by Multnomah County on behalf of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS). OHS receives no other County funding.

## Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 10023-20 OHS Local Option Levy