

Program #10023 - OHS Local Option Levy 3/7/2022

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

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. In May of 2021, measure 26-174 approved a third levy renewal from fiscal years 2021-22 through 2025-26.

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 and was overwhelmingly renewed by Multnomah County voters in 2016 and 2021) 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-- together received \$160,000 annually from the levy proceeds. Beginning January 1, 2022, the organizations will together receive \$200,000 annually from the levy proceeds. These funds are critical to the continued operation of these four organizations. The levy allocates the balance, estimated at \$3.2 million in FY 2021-22 to the Oregon Historical Society for its programs and operations.

The 2020 exhibits, Never the Less They Persisted: Women's Voting Rights and the 19th Amendment, and We are the Rose City! A History of Soccer in Portland were held over well into 2021 due to the COVID-19 2020-21 closures. Other exhibits in 2021 included: Freeze the Day! A History of Winter Sports in Oregon, and I Am My Story, Voices of Hope. Thanks to the levy funding, virtual public programs and events continued to serve the Oregon Historical Society's mission and engage a wide audience.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Multnomah County residents admitted free of charge	907	1,500	3,890	17,500
Outcome	Improved library hours per week	32	32	32	32
Output	Increased number of public programs	152	200	187	205
Quality	Care of Collections through additional curator/registrar	3	0	0	0

Performance Measures Descriptions

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic issues, OHS continued to make greater use of virtual programs and events. OHS sends two E-Digests per week: E-newsletter on articles pertaining to specific themes and Dear Oregon Blogs imparting articles of interest. OHS also sends a weekly E-Digest to educators in mid-April informing them of programs and articles that will assist them with virtual teaching and facilitates other educational programs such as History Day and curriculum workshops.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Measure 26-174 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 \$200,000 per year from the levy proceeds.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Contractual Services	\$0	\$3,436,940	\$0	\$3,643,039
Internal Services	\$0	\$7,500	\$0	\$29,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$3,444,440	\$0	\$3,672,039
Program Total:	\$3,444,440		\$3,672,039	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Taxes	\$0	\$3,403,655	\$0	\$3,646,083
Interest	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$37,785	\$0	\$22,956
Total Revenue	\$0	\$3,444,440	\$0	\$3,672,039

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$29,000 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 2022: 10023 OHS Local Option Levy

The levy was renewed for a third time in May of 2021. The levy extension runs from fiscal years 2021-22 through 2025-26. Under the revised funding agreement between Multnomah County and the Oregon Historical Society, Multnomah County will annually receive \$29,000 (increase from \$7,500) for administrative services which include tax collections, distributions, and support of Levy Oversight Committee (LOC).