

Division: Nondepartmental - All Other

Program Characteristics: New Request, One-Time-Only Request

Program Description

More than 2,800 Chinese and Chinese American people were buried in Lone Fir Cemetery between the 1860s and the 1920s, the majority of them in Block 14. While many were exhumed and returned to China in accordance with their cultural practices, some of their bodies remain in the cemetery in unmarked graves. In the 1950s, Block 14 was paved over to build an office space for Multnomah County. That building has been torn down and the land has been reincorporated into the cemetery. Metro is now in the process of completing a memorial that honors the unrecognized stories of the people who were buried at the site. The memorial was funded through the voter-approved 2019 parks and nature bond.

After project planning and design initiated in 2022, the community has been deeply involved throughout the process. Metro has led culturally specific focus groups, general public workshops and in-person events related to the ongoing development of the project. Community helped to shape the initial conceptual design approaches and the preferred design refinements throughout the course of the project. Through these engagements, the community requested that Multnomah County become involved in the effort to build the project and to issue an apology. In FY 2026 the board allocated \$1 million for the Lone Fir Memorial and issued a formal apology.

The current year allocation adds \$1.5 million to complete the memorial including a gathering space and a new stone altar, all essential for traditional rituals and community reflection. The memorial will provide an enduring record of the County's memorialization and public apology for future generations. This project represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to repair documented historical injustice with care, accuracy, and dignity.

Equity Statement

We commit to repairing historical injustices by honoring the Chinese and Chinese American communities whose sacred burial grounds were historically desecrated. Through community-led restoration and formal accountability, we ensure their enduring stories are preserved with absolute dignity and permanent recognition.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Contractual Services	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$1,000,000		\$1,500,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Payments made as scheduled	N/A	Yes	Yes
Update provided on progress toward memorial goals	N/A	Yes	Yes