

Curry nonprofits receive funds

October 20, 2020



Coronavirus Relief Fund Cultural Support (CRFCS) grant awards totaling \$25.7 million will be distributed to 621 cultural organizations across Oregon through a partnership between the Oregon Cultural Trust and its County and Tribal Cultural Coalitions. The funds, allocated to the Cultural Trust for Oregon cultural organizations facing losses due to the COVID-19 health crisis, were made available through a \$50 million relief package for Oregon culture approved by the Emergency Board of the Oregon Legislature in July.

In Curry County, a total of \$57,264 was awarded to seven organizations: Brookings Harbor Education Foundation, Inc., Brookings, \$3,086; Chetco Valley Historical Society, Brookings, \$6,989; Curry Coast Community Radio, Brookings, \$3,985; Curry County Historical Society, Gold Beach, \$8,317; Harmony & Me Music Outreach, Brookings, \$7,326; Nature's Coastal Holiday, Inc., Brookings, \$14,007; and Wild Rivers Coast Foundation for Dance, Brookings, \$13,554.

"Many cultural organizations and institutions have closed their doors to help keep us all safe during this pandemic. These grants will mean that more than 600 Oregon arts and culture organizations across our state's counties and Tribes will be able to keep up their vital creative work," said Governor Kate Brown.

"Everything from museums to fairgrounds to the summer events we all know and love can continue to enrich our lives—connecting us to one another and giving us the hope and inspiration we need."

“These funds are life blood to Oregon’s cultural community,” added Chuck Sams, chair of the Cultural Trust Board of Directors. “While they won’t replace all the losses suffered during the pandemic, they will ensure Oregon culture survives this crisis. We are deeply grateful to the Oregon Legislature for making this possible.”

The largest award is \$1.4 million to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry; the average grant award is \$41,458. Just under \$90 million in requests were received from 751 organizations; 130 organizations were ineligible for awards based on program guidelines.

“Due to the incredible need, we were able to fund a percentage of organizations’ eligible expenses,” said Brian Rogers, Cultural Trust executive director. “Smaller organizations received a higher percentage of their eligible expenses. The final awards represent a statewide, equitable distribution plan that was approved by our Board of Directors, the Governor’s Office, Business Oregon and our legislative sponsors.”

The organizations to receive funding include cultural institutions, county fairgrounds, cultural entities within federally recognized Indian Tribes based in Oregon, festivals and community event organizations, in addition to some for-profit organizations that have significant cultural impact in their communities. Awards will be issued directly to the organizations by their local County or Tribal Coalition.

Funding was determined based on eligible request amounts, an award allocation formula that established a base amount of funds per county or Tribe and the organization’s fiscal size. COVID-19 expenses previously reimbursed by other federal CARES Act programs were not eligible.

The intended use of the CRF Cultural Support funds is to provide financial assistance to cultural nonprofit organizations and community venues that have canceled or postponed public programming because of public health executive orders associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidelines for the funding are in accordance with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.