Five Oaks Museum Monthly E-Newsletter

September 2020

Issue 9

1 Moving Forward in the World of COVID-19

Re-imagining the Museum Re-opening

On November 12th, 2020, Five Oaks Museum will open a new exhibition, DISplace, by curators Lehuauakea and Kanani Miyamoto. For months, the Five Oaks team have imagined that opening as the re-opening of the museum space as well. As the date draws into view, though, what was imagined must wrap around the contours of reality, taking new shape.

The Five Oaks Museum building is located on Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus. In order to protect the thousands of lives they touch, PCC have asked that no campus building open to the public until they deem it safe for the entire network. Five Oaks Museum shares their commitment to public health and will honor that request; our building will not be accessible to the public until March of next year at the earliest.

Luckily, Five Oaks Museum is more than a building.
We are a group of people - five staff and nine board members, a growing roster of Guest Curators, and innumerable loved ones and collaborators.
We are a way of doing things - listening to community needs, de-centering authority, interrogating systems of power, embracing creativity, standing firmly in humane values.
We are a 65 year old history organization who can think in deep time.
We are artists who can see evolving futures.

Washington County Museum was reborn as Five Oaks Museum on January 1st, 2020, and spent just 10 weeks with a physical site open to the public before COVID-19 measures shifted us all. We had reformed our museum as a platform for the community, an agile responder to the needs of those we serve, and a history organization dedicated to the future. The future came sooner than expected. We've now spent six months using remote and socially distanced modes

of work, and become an institution fully in relationship with the historic cultural moment that surrounds us.

So, on November 12th, we open. Not our building - yet - but our work, our minds, our hearts. We are shifting from reacting to change to being present in the world as it is right now; we are finding a path forward that is receptive, optimistic, and extraordinary. Thank you for taking this journey with us.

Read More Here

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2 Back to School with Five Oaks Museum

A Time of New Beginnings, even in an Unusual Year

Back to school is a time of new beginnings, even in an unusual year. Five Oaks Museum is excited to share these upcoming remote learning resources. Remote learning enables the Museum to pilot new digital learning units that will allow learners and educators to access Five Oaks Museum's exhibitions and materials from anywhere in the world, beyond the distance a bus can travel for a group visit! Click here for more information and some of our favorite remote learning resources from our PDX partners.

Available Now:

Museum at (Our Place): *This IS Kalapuyan Land*
Bring a pop-up exhibition with 10 yard signs to your school, facility, or neighborhood, then extend the learning with the activities and resources in the Stay Learning guide.

Video & Activity Guide Coming in November 2020:

This IS Kalapuyan Land
Guide conversations around ways Native peoples are represented in history, Kalapuyan lifeways and tribal history, and contemporary Native artists contributing to cultural

DISplace

Trace the connections between Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest, expanding the learning opportunities of *DISplace* for all ages.

survivance today.

3 Meet Our Board of Directors
Introducing 5 Museum Board Members

Ameena Djanga
Technical Recovery Analyst, Nike

I simply love museums! I aim to stretch my own learning and to help bring about continued diversity and change in this space.

"I hold a BA in Studio Arts, a BA in Global Business, and a Master of Museum Studies and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from John Hopkins University. In addition to the Board, I serve on the Five Oaks Museum Cultural Resources Committee.

A Southern California girl at heart, I have a passion for all things sunny, and enjoys spending my free time with my husband and puppy, reading, painting, or learning new languages."

Kira Iwasaki
Owner/Lead Designer, Habitat Landscape Design

I'm always excited to meet a creative challenge in support of my favorite local organizations!

"My passion for art and design can be traced back to middle school days when I spent hours painting scenes on furniture and making my own jewelry.

I worked as an interior designer for 10 years before following my family's 100 year legacy in the bedding plant industry. As the owner of Habitat Landscape Design, I now create outdoor spaces, where beauty and function also means preserving our natural environment."

Cierra Johnson
Owner/Bookkeeper, Oak Books

At Five Oaks Museum, I bridge my passion for immersive learning with my professional background as the Board's treasurer.

"I have been a bookkeeper for over ten years, and a business owner based in Central Oregon for the last four.

I love the ability to take my work on the road, frequently traveling with my family in search of adventures in food, art, nature, and history both near and far from home. These travels carved a natural path to the innovative Five Oaks Museum."

Alfredo Moreno
Community Relations Manager, Portland Community College

I'm thrilled to help shape the future of one of the metro area's most progressive, creative, and vibrant museums.

"From summer camp days at the mighty Heritage Museum of Big Spring, Texas to unforgettable tours of l' Mémorial de Caenn (Normandy, France), I have long been captivated by the magic of museums.

Born in El Paso, Texas, I grew up a world away in the timber town of Roseburg, Oregon before earning my degree in History from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. I now proudly call South Beaverton home along with my wife, daughter, and toddling son."

Check back next month: The October newsletter will feature the Museum's remaining four Board members: Vanessa Benedetti, Nafisa Fai, Tom Hughes, and Stephanie Kim.

What are the Museum Staff up to?

Your Museum Membership drives our work, thank you.

We've been working remotely for six months now! At our most recent weekly staff meeting, we met up in person at Sauvie Island and asked each staff member to share what they've been working on, what they're excited about in their personal life, and what books they're currently reading.

Molly Alloy
Museum Co-Director

"I have been really excited to see Museum at (Our Place) pop up in more places, with new ones in the works in downtown Hillsboro and OMSI - it's so fun to see that amazing exhibition continue to reach more

Nathanael Andreini
Museum Co-Director

"There's a lot of energy for organizational change right now, especially in the current movement for upending structural oppression. It's amazing to be a part of that through our museum's collaborative

people.

In my studio right now I'm sewing little bits of leather into a geologic-looking tail for a driftwood whale sculpture; an invocation of the natural world as queer ancestry. And we just celebrated our kiddo's first birthday!

I'm reading "All the Real Indians Died Off": And 20 Other Myths About Native Americans by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker and Earth Beings: Ecologies of Practice Across Andean Worlds by Marisol de La Cadena."

Rachel Brumit
Operations Coordinator

"Development work and community building have been at the forefront of operations these days. I've loved hearing from those of you who have reached out by email. Thank you!

At home we are gearing up for distance learning and I'm taking an online short story class.

Currently I'm reading Margaret Atwood's Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing, lots of random short stories, and The Phantom Tollbooth with my daughter."

Mariah Berlanga-Shevchuk
Cultural Resources Manager

"I'm updating the museum's collections policy and procedures, including creating a thoughtful deaccessioning plan, which is an integral component of the Museum's ongoing anti-racist work.

My partner and I recently adopted a rescue dog named Macy, so I'm excited about what she's learning in Zoom training and for all of the nearby hikes/river trips we can take her on!

Currently reading: Active Collections edited by Elizabeth Wood, Rainey Tisdale, and Trevor Jones (for collections work), The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson (for pleasure/to expand my knowledge of Black history), and This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation by Alan Lew (getting ready for the High Holidays next month.)"

leadership model and community-centered activities, though there's so much more work to do.

I'm doing a lot of river swimming and enjoying summer veggies from the garden.

Bedside reading: So Much Things To Say: The Oral History of Bob Marley, by Roger Steffens; River reading: Call Them By Their True Names, by Rebecca Solnit; Table reading: LAtitudes: An Angeleno's Atlas, edited by Patricia Wakida"

Victoria Sundell
Learning Coordinator

"I'm getting ready for the school year! I'm excited to expand the digital and geographic reach of *This IS Kalapuyan Land*, and to learn and create new curriculum around *DISplace.*

I've been busy raising my Great Pyrenees puppy Gareth, who I adopted in the early days of the pandemic. I recently took him on his first road trip!

I'm reading Teaching for Black Lives, edited by Dyan Watson, Jesse Hagopian, and Wayne Au for museum work and Are Prisons Obsolete?, by Angela Davis for my own education.

Thank you to all of our members and supporters! All memberships purchased before November 12, 2020 will be extended eight months, the length of the museum's closure due to Covid-19. We are so grateful for your support to keep doing the work that excites us and allows us to

create change.

Become a Member Here

Donate Here

The Gathering Place
Museum & Community Updates

Museum Instagram Takeover: Rya Hueston

Rya Hueston (Diné/Hopi), participating artist in Gender Euphoria, describes how they use personal history as a tool to uncovering non-white centric historical narratives, and de-colonize gender as we know it through artmaking and research practices. This takeover took place from August 10 to 15, 2020. If you missed it, view as a pdf here.

Museum Instagram Takeover: Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.

Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. shared about how food brings community together through their projects like Grandmother's Kitchen, Table for Two, and KS MoCA. Save the date for a community picnic on Sept. 13, more info here.

Congrats: Downtown Hillsboro History Project Write-up

Local historian Art Sommers, who has frequently made use of the museum's cultural resources to support his research, was recently written about in Pamplin News about his ongoing project to document how downtown Hillsboro's historic buildings have evolved while checking how current business owners are faring. Read the article here. Congrats, Art!

Event: DREAMs Deferred LIVE

In partnership with the City of Beaverton, The Immigrant Story presents "DREAMs Deferred Live," a two day event featuring one night of soulful music (Sept 17) and another night of moving storytelling (Sept 12) by immigrants in our community. Musical Night link here. / Storytelling Night link here.

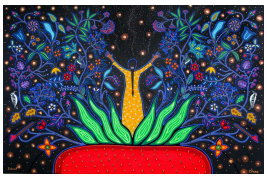
Sock Drive Request: Supporting Houseless Community

Pride NW and PABA (Portland's LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce) are running a sock drive for houseless community members, because the first thing folks working with the unhoused population say is that they need socks. Contact Debra at Pride NW (debra.porta@pridenw.org) to donate new and unused pairs.

Scholarship Opportunity: The Immigrant Story

The Immigrant Story invites aspiring journalists who are currently students at an Oregon university or a junior in high school to apply for the $1,000 scholarship

stipend and gain hands on experience in journalism about immigrant and refugee issues. Click here for more info.



Fellowship Opportunity: NW PDX Area Indian Health Board

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is launching a $10,000 Fellowship for one Indigenous artist from Turtle Island. This 12-month Fellowship invests in the vision and development of the artist, while they create a piece for an innovative project called 49 Days of Ceremony. Click here for more info.

Thanks for being part of our journey.

Join our community on social media: