One year ago this week, we introduced you to Five Oaks Museum. We were SO excited (and a little nervous) to share our name, logo, colors, and brand voice with you.

For months the museum staff and board had deliberated internally what a brand would look and sound like that was rooted in this place, that stewarded our cultural resources and shared complex and layered histories, and welcomed all who are curious about the world we are part of.

We chose a name that references a grove of oak trees that have represented home and cultural exchange for countless human and other-than-human beings across five centuries.

The vibrant brand colors were grounded in this land: fertile soil, fir trees, acorns, camas flowers; and the logo playfully constructed the number "5" from three shapes: the roots, the trunk, the branches.

Back then, we also brainstormed words and phrases to describe our new brand personality and voice.
We wanted to be a good listener, and the sort of friend who will tell you the truth. We envisioned being an institution with generous capacity for collaborative work. We imagined invoking an experience of youth at any age - open to learning, full of inquisitiveness, willing to grow.

We hoped the brand would resonate with you. We dreamed that it would adapt and grow alongside you.

Now, at the beginning of our second year, we reflect on how our brand has taken shape.

Our brand is a continuous realm of development. Sharing our organizational journey openly has become part of our identity. We welcome critique and feedback, which becomes incorporated into our work.

We continue to think of our brand identity in relation to the Five Oaks historic site, taking on complex history and supporting multi-layered conversations.

Our name gives us a responsibility to the land and the communities we serve.

We also think our brand is playful. We take our work seriously, but we have fun too! We learned so much in our first year from the contributions of partners like our Guest Curators, Instagram Takeover guests, and our supporters. Our flexibility and these collaborations give us a youthfulness for an organization or museum.

We look forward to seeing what 2021 will bring. Here’s to the beginning of our second year of learning alongside you all!

How It Started, How It's Going
The Evolution of the Museum’s Organizational Chart

How it started:

This org chart is what now-Co-Directors Nathanael Andreini and Molly Alloy proposed to the board in 2019 before they became co-directors.

Since making this chart, we’ve:
- Added Mariah, our Cultural Resources Manager, to the team.
- Updated all the staff titles.
- Spread "development" across all our work, rather than keep it centralized as is common (usually in a more powerful, higher paid position).
- Become even more collaborative, especially in the co-director roles.

How its going:

We drew "the hug chart" near the end of 2020 during a brainstorm envisioning non-hierarchical organizational structures.

What we like about it:
- The board and co-directors are positioned as the support base of the museum’s work.
- The community is a named part of our structure.
- It implies bodies, care and affection.
- It’s messy and alive, which speaks to how we approach our work!
- It’s just a sketch, because we are still figuring out what org chart works best and shares the most truth.

We’d love to see your sketches and hear your ideas about what non-hierarchal organizational structures could look like. Send us an email!

Call for Participants: Creating in Community

A stories, movement, and collaboration program for older adults

Five Oaks Museum is piloting a free online program that brings older adults between ages 65-79 together in community. Participants will share stories, practice simple longevity movements together, and collaborate on a creative project.

Do you know an older adult who would love to connect with community right now, and resides in Washington County, OR? Please
Let’s Carry on Together
A cute video from your Five Oaks friends

We rely on your input to drive how we meet community needs and, as an independent nonprofit, we rely on your support through recurring giving to sustain storytelling and preservation work, extend access to free learning, and ensure we are accountable to the communities we serve.

*Please watch this short video to hear some staff and board member reflections on the first year of Five Oaks Museum and how impactful you can be as a recurring giver.*

Become a Recurring Giver Here
**Museum Opportunity:** Call for 2021 Guest Curator Proposals

Five Oaks Museum presents two major exhibitions each year that are curated by community members of all backgrounds and experience levels. The application period to submit exhibition proposals for 2021 is open now until January 31. There are two upcoming info sessions on January 12 and 25. [More info here.](#)

**Museum Instagram Takeover:** Palmarin Merges

Palmarin Merges, an artist featured in *Displace*, brought us our first international takeover (from Japan!) and shared how she gives used materials new life in her artwork. This takeover occurred from December 7-12, 2020. [View PDF](#)

**What we're watching:** Robin Wall Kimmerer Talk

In a talk organized by Confluence Project and many local partners, Braiding Sweetgrass author Robin Wall Kimmerer shares her thoughts with a particularly focus on decolonizing educational practices and settings and integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into those arenas. [View here.](#)

**Event:** The Land Back Movement and Indigenous Feminism Talk

Wednesday, January 13th, 2021, 4:30-6:30pm. Presented by the PSU Women's Resource Center. This conversation on the Land Back movement and Indigenous feminism features Katherine Paul of Black Belt Eagle Scout and Takiya Reed of Divide and Dissolve. These two Indigenous musicians will share their perspective on Indigenous feminism, feminism, and creating and living in Indigenous feminist futures. This event will offer ASL interpretation as well as English language live captions. Register to receive zoom link at [bit.ly/CFFSeries3](#)

**Opportunity:** Fields Art Fellowship

The Oregon Community Foundation and Oregon Humanities are partnering again to invest in individual artists, culture bearers, and their communities through the [Fields Artist Fellowship](#).