2022 History & Culture Guest Curator Info Session
About the Guest Curator Program

Five Oaks Museum presents two major exhibitions each year that are curated by community members of all backgrounds and experience levels with the support and guidance of the museum staff.

COMMUNITY NEED DRIVEN

- Offers opportunities to emerging/mid-career curators & history practitioners
- Helps fill Portland-area gap of mid-level history spaces

JUSTICE ORIENTED

- Decenters museum voice as a historically white institution
- Represents more communities than the museum collection includes
- Gives a platform to those who are best equipped to tell their own communities' stories
The opportunity

HISTORY & CULTURE EXHIBITION

- Opens October 2022
- Approx. one year from selection to opening
- $4000 curator stipend
- $3000 exhibition budget
- Required to feature cultural and historical elements (art optional)
- Research and curriculum component
2022 Guest Curatorships

**PHYSICAL**
- Exhibition will be physical in the museum gallery for the first time since 2019
- Unless public health requires otherwise

**MUSEUM SUPPORT**
- Museum will offer significant support and guidance, including promotion, exhibition design, and creation of learning units
- Museum will review all content

**POSSIBLE COLLABORATION**
- Can work with collaborators; stipend and budget are fixed

**PLACE-BASED CONNECTIONS**
- Make meaningful connections to the PNW
- Engage viewers in local and global considerations
- Be located at this museum for a reason
This IS Kalapuyan Land
curated by Steph
Littlebird Fogel

- Updated and corrected pre-existing museum didactic panels
- Incorporated local scholarly research from Dr. David G. Lewis, collection objects, and contemporary art
- Physical and online exhibition
2020 History & Culture Exhibition

Displace curated by Kanani Miyamoto and Lehuauauakea

- Art and stories found through open call
- Incorporated original research and writing, collection objects, multimedia art, and first-person narratives from community members
- Online Exhibition
2021 History & Culture Exhibition

#StandUpFG curated by Israel Pastrana

- Opens October 2, 2021!
- Incorporates original research and writing, collection documents, twitter data, and first-person narratives from community members
- Employed 2 PCC students as research assistants
- Online Exhibition
Art Exhibitions

2020
Gender Euphoria: Contemporary Art Beyond the Binary
curated by Becca Owen

2021
Untouchable Artifacts
curated by Rya Hueston and Kat Salas
1930s
Beginning of Wash Co. Collection; Native Sons and Daughters

1956
Washington County Historical Society; historic house museum

1982
Washington County Museum built at PCC Rock Creek

1987
Museum becomes an independent non-profit

2000s
Long time director retires; attempts to connect with growing & changing population
Museum History: Rebirth

**2012-2017**
Washington County Museum in downtown Hillsboro

**2019**
The revolution; *This IS Kalapuyan Land* opens

**2020**
Five Oaks Museum, dismantling and rebuilding organizational structures; first cycle of guest curated exhibitions: *Gender Euphoria* and *DISplace*

**2022**
Third cycle of guest curated exhibitions!
Museum History: Five Oaks Historic Site

HABITAT AND HOME
- Oregon White Oak is essential to regional biodiversity.

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL
- Tualatin Kalapuyans annual harvest and land stewardship

A PLACE TO COME TOGETHER
- Fur trading and pioneer celebrations in the 1800s
- First Fourth of July in Oregon

PRESERVATION AND PLANTING
- Decades of agriculture and suburbianization
- Preservation efforts by local residents & museum
- Today, one 500-year old Oak still stands, in family with 4 replanted younger oaks
Our Five Values

**BODY**
- Accessibility for different ages and abilities

**LAND**
- Rooted in this place; local and global considerations

**TRUTH**
- Complexity and nuance; high level of research

**JUSTICE**
- Resistance to structural inequity; multiple interpretations

**COMMUNITY**
- Trust in community expertise; collaboration
About the Collection

MORE THAN A CENTURY IN THE MAKING
The Washington County Historical Society collection is owned by Washington County and leased to Five Oaks Museum for permanent caretaking. It's estimated to contain 100k individual objects between the archives, objects, and library.

PIONEER ORIGINS
The collection was originally developed to document the lives of European-American pioneers and their descendants. Materials from non-European ethnic and cultural groups were collected with less focused intent.

TOWARDS COMMUNITY
The collection is being reconsidered for relevance to the museum’s goals and the needs of the communities we serve, including deaccessioning and new collecting goals.
Objects and Archives

- European-American and pioneer daily life materials: clothing, quilts, agricultural equipment, musical instruments, housewares, trunks
- Indigenous objects: stone tools and cookware, projectiles, woven baskets, beads
- Contemporary art collection recently established
- Large photograph collection spanning 19th and 20th centuries
- Various types of documents, manuscripts, scrapbooks, graduate theses, newspaper folios, rare books, pamphlets, audiovisual materials, oral histories
- Repository for some official Washington County records
- Research library of subject and industry specific books, magazines, and other published materials
Application Process

• Application period is now open! Proposals are due September 1, 2021 at midnight

• Application includes CV and contact info for 2 references, summary of proposed exhibition concept and use of budget, and 5 further questions related to the museum's five values of Body, Land, Truth, Justice, and Community

• Selection panel of community members meets in September; the museum staff and co-directors do not select the guest curators

• Guest curatorship selection notified by late September; onboarding begins in October. Your exhibition opens in Fall 2022.
This question is about how you would prioritize funds. You do not need to have exact amounts worked out; you can make estimates. The museum provides $3,000 and additional funds will need to be raised through sponsorships and grants.

**Potential Budget Items**

- Working with a collaborator; student assistants
- Compensating featured artists and contributors
- Paying an expert for use of their research or to review exhibition text
- Fees for borrowing items/using images in other institution's collections
- Printing text, signage, and other displays
- Building out the physical design; buying needed materials
- Paying performers for the opening event
- Funding a project associated with the exhibition, such as a catalog or zine
Strong Applications

- Strong applications show completion of thought, inroads for multiple perspectives and media, strong roots in the community whose story is being told, and applicant's readiness to execute the proposal successfully.

- Address the triangle: Why you, Why us, Why now?
Questions?

REACH OUT TO US!

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FULL DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE: