Five Oaks Museum Monthly E-Newsletter

December 2021

Issue 24

1 Looking Back at Five Oaks Museum in 2021

Expanding Community Access and a Sense of Openness

Happy second birthday to Five Oaks Museum! Although the past two years may have felt endless to many, 2021 was just our second year as Five Oaks Museum. While the doors remained closed, the Museum expanded community access and a sense of openness to those near and far. Here are some highlights!

Our exhibitions uplifted community voices:

- Opened two guest curated exhibitions: Untouchable Artifacts and #StandUpFG: Latinx Youth Activism in the Willamette Valley
- Placed dozens of Museum at (Our Place): This IS Kalapuyan Land yard sign exhibitions out in the community

We reached national media:

- ArtNews, about the museum's values-based transformation as a model for other institutions
- PBS NewsHour, about putting exhibitions in the hands of communities telling their own stories

Our learning opportunities grew:

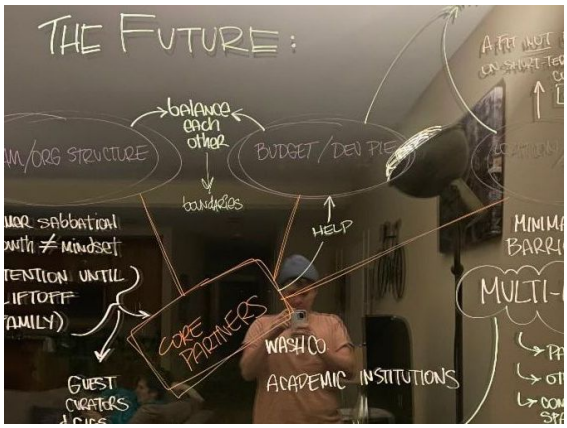
- Published student learning materials for This IS Kalapuyan Land and DISplace
- Opened the Community Gallery on the website for education and interpretation work
- Investigated the Five Oaks Historic Site through design in the Interpreting Place class at Portland State University

We addressed access and representation in our cultural resources:

- Built new Research Library space and catalogued books
- Carried out internal research project with the City of Beaverton to address erasure of BIPOC in Beaverton history

Internally and financially, we expanded our openness to new ways of existing:

- Celebrated a full year of values based budgeting
- Fundraised by showcasing community in our First Showcase
- Established sliding scale pricing for events and learning materials
- Welcomed core volunteers back into the museum work
- Sent the Museum Co-Directors on a planning retreat



We can't wait to continue growing as Five Oaks Museum in Year Three!

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2 Register for the *#StandUpFG* Curator's Talk

Step Behind the Scenes into the Curatorial Process

December 16
6-7 p.m. Pacific
Virtual, Registration Required

Click here to register for the #StandUpFG Curator's Talk

Hear from guest curator **Israel Pastrana** about the research process and curatorial decisions behind

the exhibition *#StandUpFG: Latinx Youth Activism in the Willamette Valley*.

Israel Pastrana is a Chicanx historian and educator from the San Diego-Tijuana boderlands. In 2018, Pastrana worked with student activists to found Portland Community College's Ethnic Studies program.

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3 Reflections from the Board Co-Chairs

And an introduction to our newest board member!

Looking back at the past year, Board Co-Chairs **Alfredo Moreno and Vanessa Benedetti** shared: "We're so grateful for our fellow board directors and the museum staff for trusting us to help lead this community-building, soul-enriching organization."

Alfredo says, "Five Oaks Museum has been the extended family we all have desperately needed over the past year and I hope our care for each other is reflected in the quality and diligence of our collective work."

Vanessa agrees and adds, "I am thrilled to serve alongside my Co-Chair in support of our Co-EDs as this tiny yet powerful museum continues to honor the depths of our community in Washington County."

The museum is also happy to introduce our newest board member, **Brian Decker!**

Brian has worked as a public defender for four years in the Washington County criminal justice system and will bring legal expertise to the board. A Beaverton resident who has formerly volunteered as a community

organizer and union board member, he is drawn to the museum's values-based approach.

Our value of **justice** is worth stating here: History and culture are tools of production; they must be used in resistance to structural inequity so as to support the possibility of justice for all.

4 Support the Online Library Catalogue

Give This December to Help Complete the Museum Library

As we close out this year and prepare for 2022, we are focusing on completing our exciting new library space!

Anyone who is curious about how the past resonates within our current time will find a home in the new Five Oaks Library, where researchers will get the support needed to be active storytellers and history-makers in their own right.

All recurring giving and one-time donations that come in this month will go toward our fundraising goal of $36,000 to bring the library to life! The museum will soon have a dedicated library computer and release a searchable online catalogue of our books that you can access from anywhere.

Support the library now!

5 The Gathering Place

Museum & Community Updates

Museum Event Recording: Alaska Native Artist Panel

Missed the celebratory gathering for the Community Gallery opening of*Alaska Native Art: Stories of Healing Through Transformation*? Watch the conversation recording with artists Terresa White (Yupik), James Johnson (Tlingit), Holly Mititquq Nordlum (Inupiaq/Inuit), and Drew Michael (Yupik/Inupiaq), moderated by Renea Perry (Tlingit/Inupiat/N.Euro). View recording here.

Call for Artists: Confluence Library Submissions

The Confluence Project is currently accepting submissions of writing and art for the first

issue of their print journal *Voices from the River. Voices from the River* is a journal that explores the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. The deadline to submit is December 21, 2021, for the first issue that will be published in the fall of 2022. Details and Submission information here.

Opportunity: Portland Art Museum hiring in communications

The Portland Art Museum and Northwest Film Center are hiring a Digital Communications Specialist to strategically build a more connected digital identity for the two organizations. See the job posting here.

Thanks for being part of our journey.
Join our community on social media: