



2017 Heritage Invitational Exhibit

Request for Proposals

Nature and Community (Working Title)

The Willamette Heritage Center (WHC) is requesting exhibit proposals for participation in the 7th Annual Heritage Invitational Exhibit from Heritage Organizations around the Mid-Valley. The theme/draft title for the 2017 Winter Exhibition is *Nature and Community*. The exhibit will explore the wide array of natural resources in the Mid-Willamette Valley and the complex interactions between the natural environment (including landscape, flora, fauna, and natural resources) and our communities. The exhibit will run Thursday, January 19, 2017 (invitation only reception) through Saturday, April 15, 2017.

How do we participate?

Organizations from Polk, Marion, Linn, and Yamhill Counties are eligible to participate by curating and installing a display in a portion of the WHC's changing exhibit gallery, based upon the year's theme. Participating organizations choose what stories, artifacts, photos or other display materials from their collections best fit with the theme and install the materials in the gallery space. The Willamette Heritage Center provides the space, printing of one 18" x 24" introductory label, and the use of at least one exhibit case to protect materials displayed. Because space in the gallery is limited, participants must submit a brief exhibit proposal. In the event of having more organizations wishing to participate than we can physically accommodate, a committee made up of the WHC's senior staff and two representatives from outside organizations will make the final decision on participants based on the submitted proposals.

Guidelines for exhibit proposals (no more than 2 pages):

Please include the following information in your proposal:

1. Exhibit description: What is the topic of your exhibit? Why is it significant to your organization or community? What could visitors potentially see, hear, read, touch and experience in your section/space?
2. Exhibit goals: What is/are the primary goal(s) of your exhibit? What do you want visitors to take away after viewing your section?
3. Sample materials: Please provide a few (no more than 4) sample images of photographs or objects that **might** be used in your exhibit in conjunction with the 2017 theme.

Please send exhibit proposals to Kylie Pine by Friday, September 16, 2016

ATTN: 2017 Exhibit Proposals/Kylie Pine
Willamette Heritage Center
1313 Mill Street SE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301
Or email at kyliep@willametteheritage.org

Exhibit Planning Timeline

September 16, 2016	Proposals due
September 23, 2016	Notification of participants
Mon, September 26, 2016 10:00 – 11:30	Informational meeting for participants
December 1, 2016	Deadline for content for introductory labels
January 9 - 13, 2017	Gallery installation
January 19, 2017 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Exhibit reception
January 20, 2017	Exhibit open to the public
April 15, 2017	Exhibit closes to the public
April 17 – 21, 2016	Teardown and pick up materials

Exhibit Background

The WHC's mission is to preserve and interpret the history of the Mid-Willamette Valley. We cannot accomplish this on our own. The WHC created the Heritage Invitational Exhibit 7 years ago to highlight the diverse and exceptional work being done by heritage organizations throughout the region. The WHC envisions the invitational exhibit as providing a venue for heritage groups and organizations to share their message with a wider audience, collaborate with other like-minded organizations, and gain exhibit development experience.

About the Theme

The Mid-Willamette Valley possesses myriad complex ecological systems and natural characteristics. Water, soil, forests, wildlife and minerals have shaped the economies, settlement patterns, leisure activities, and identities of the communities in the region. Humans in the valley have also been shaping the natural landscape to meet their needs and ideals since time immemorial. Native agriculture and burning practices sculpted the valley's iconic oak savanna, power development and flood controls in our cities have dammed and shaped our waterways, and the current trend in urbanization is transforming agricultural regions into cityscapes. This exhibit and subsequent programming will look at the relationship between humans and their natural environment in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Programming

As an historical institution with the mission to preserve and interpret the history of the Mid-Willamette Valley, the Willamette Heritage Center believes that an understanding of the past can inform future decision-making. Museum programming in the Winter of 2017 will tackle the complex relationship between our community and our environment. Programs will include:

Willamette Valley Voices

The WHC is reviving the Willamette Valley Voices journal. The first new edition will be paired with the theme of the heritage invitational exhibit. Willamette Valley voices draws on local scholars (amateur and professional) to help document different stories of our shared history. We encourage exhibit participants to consider submitting the research completed for this exhibit for publication in the journal.

History in the News

Our newest speakers program features local scholars putting current headlines in historic context.