WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER

2018 Annual Report

Connecting Generations by Preserving and Interpreting the History of the Mid-Willamette Valley

Board of Directors

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James (Jeff) Walton, President-Elect
Ted Stang, Past President
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Lori Woodbury, Treasurer
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Staff Members

Michelle Cordova, Executive Director
David Birch, Millwright
Chris Coila, Event Rental Support & Security
Anna Creswell, Administrative Assistant
Jamie Garcia, Events Supervisor
Tammy King-Headings, Event Sales Coordinator
Holly Klaus, Accounts & Office Manager
Toby Lanham, Facility Support
Kaylyn Mabey, Research & Archives Specialist
Liz McIntire, Marketing & Events Specialist
Sean O'Harra, Operations & Facilities Director
Erica Osorio, Education & Volunteer Coordinator
Samantha Phillips, Sales Assistant
Kylie Pine, Curator & Collections Manager
Helen Shafran, Development Director
Shirley Hamilton, Development Assistant

Thank you to our outgoing staff members!

Liz Boland, Pam Ferrara, Cristal Garcia, Beth Robin, Jenna Wyatt, and James Phelps

Mission

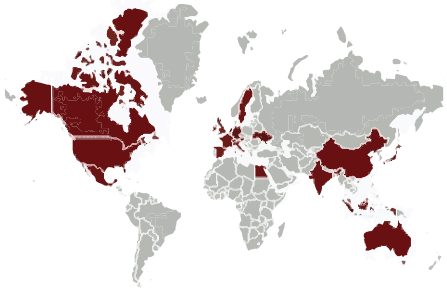
Connecting Generations by Preserving and Interpreting the History of the Mid-Willamette Valley

The WHC is central to the Mid-Willamette Valley past, present and future. This land was home of the Kalapuya before Euro-American missionaries and immigrants began settling the area in the 1840s. Local visitors and tourists from far away can learn more about the rich history and diverse cultural heritage of the Mid-Willamette Valley through tours, exhibits, educational programs and the archives.

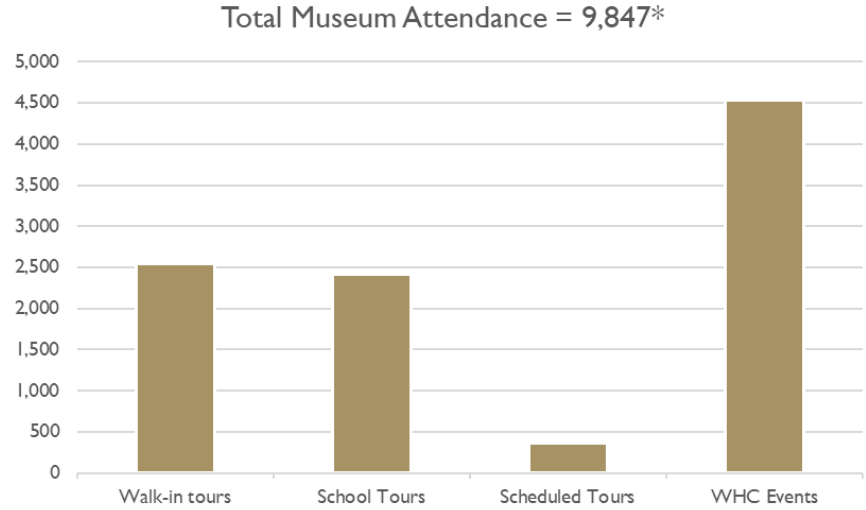
The Willamette Heritage Center's 5 1/2-acre campus contains 15 historic structures, 13 tenants, and 11 artists that rent space from us on an annual basis. These community partners bring in an additional estimated 10,000 visitors to our site each year.

Attendance

The WHC welcomed 53,561 guests for museum/school tours, WHC events, and event rentals.



Museum guests came from at least **82 Oregon cities, 48 states**, and **22 countries**.

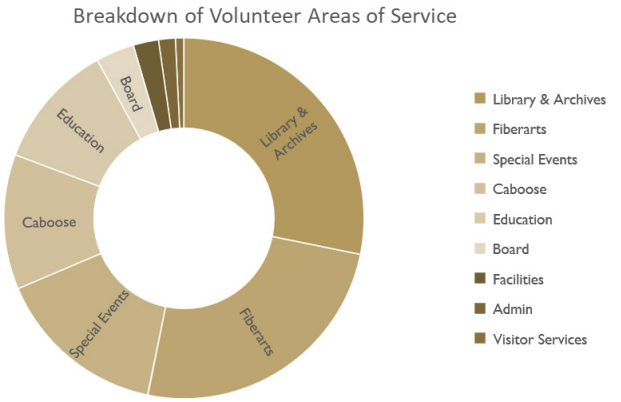


** Event rentals include including weddings, celebrations of life, office parties, and more, which brought in 43,714 for a total of 53,561 guests to our site!*

Volunteers

Nearly 250 individuals graciously gave their time to support the WHC in 2018

Volunteers are vital to the day-to-day operations of the Willamette Heritage Center. Volunteers do everything from staffing the front desk, shearing sheep, greeting visitors, assisting genealogists with research, demonstrating blacksmithing, cataloguing materials, stuffing envelopes, sewing tags on artifacts, vacuuming exhibits, demonstrating weaving, data entry, providing interpretive tours, serving on the Board of Directors, and dressing up like a buffalo for Oregon Trail Live.



Volunteers gave enough time to fill 6 full-time positions

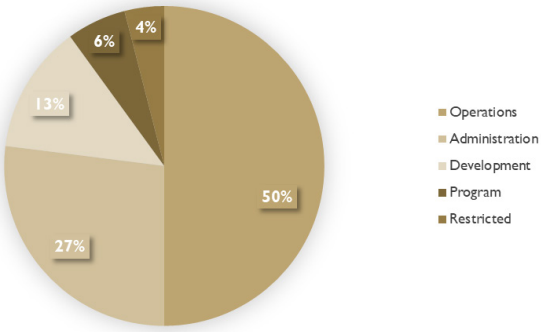
In the past year, volunteers donated over 13,232 hours of their time to support the Willamette Heritage Center. That is the equivalent of more than six full-time employees which is valued at $326,698. (source: independentsector.org)

Finances

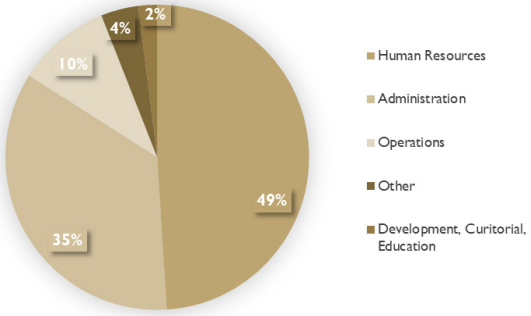
The WHC's Event Sales and Development Departments bring in nearly 63% of our income

Net Income: $146,567

Revenue: $1,264,598



Expenses: $1,116,031



Thank You Members!

This year we had an **average of 475 members, 30 of which belong to the Heritage Club** (those giving $1,000 or more annually).

Special Thanks to our Grantors and Special Events Sponsors!

Ed Austin Associates
City of Salem Cultural and Tourism Promotion Advisory Board
Danner & Soli
First Interstate Bank
Virgil T. Golden Funeral Services
JKP Fundraising, LLC
Marion Cultural Development Corporation
Mid-Valley Quilt Guild
Mt. Angel Oktoberfest
Oregon Cultural Trust
Alex Paraskevas and Jenn Columbus
The Family of Viola "Milo" Pearmine
Roth's Fresh Markets
Salem Convention Center
Salem Electric
Salem Fiberarts Guild
Salem Foundation
Salem Weekly
Sherman, Sherman, Johnnie & Hoyt LLP
Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund
Swanson Lathen Prestwich, PC
William S. Walton Charitable Trust
Wilco Farm Stores

Community Partners

Ed Austin Associates

Collections

Collections received a remarkable number of donations in 2018 and catalogued thousands of new items into the WHC's database.

Milestones:

- Began inventorying 2nd Floor Exhibit Space in the Mill. Inventoried our **1000th** item in this project!
- Received grant for and began rehousing large donation of Architectural Drawings from Salem firm Payne, Settecase and Smith (and subsequent iterations).
- Helped host two collections workshops for non-profits in our region.

By the Numbers:

- **80** donations of new material were processed into the museum's collections
- **3,918** items were newly catalogued
- **6,025** items were inventoried and rehoused by staff and volunteers

The WHC now has:

21,764 artifacts

47,939 photographs

4,424 series of archival records

7,745 books

catalogued and accounted for in our collections management database.

A Sample of New Acquisitions in 2018, left to right. Scale model of the old Oregon State Capitol Building (complete with lights and interior decorations), 2018.043.0001; Photograph of Fairgrounds Road in Salem in 1953, 2018.030.0004; Souvenir of the Club Stables in 1913, 2018.029.0001; Salem's Huffman Motors dealership records, 2018.020.0001

Education

The WHC welcomed nearly 2,500 students and 277 adults to our site in 2018 to learn about the Mid-Willamette Valley's past

School Tours

Staff and volunteers educated **2,467** in 2018.

Program Highlights

Teen Interpreter Program
4 students
175.50 volunteer hours logged

Adult Education Programs
6 Lacemaking students
15 Weaving students

Exhibits | The Willamette Heritage Center hosted four special exhibits in 2018

Our 8th Annual Heritage Invitational Exhibit Arrival: Stories of Migration, Immigration and Journeys in the Mid-Willamette Valley featured exhibits from 12 different Heritage and Cultural organizations from across the Mid-Willamette Valley, including several first time participants.

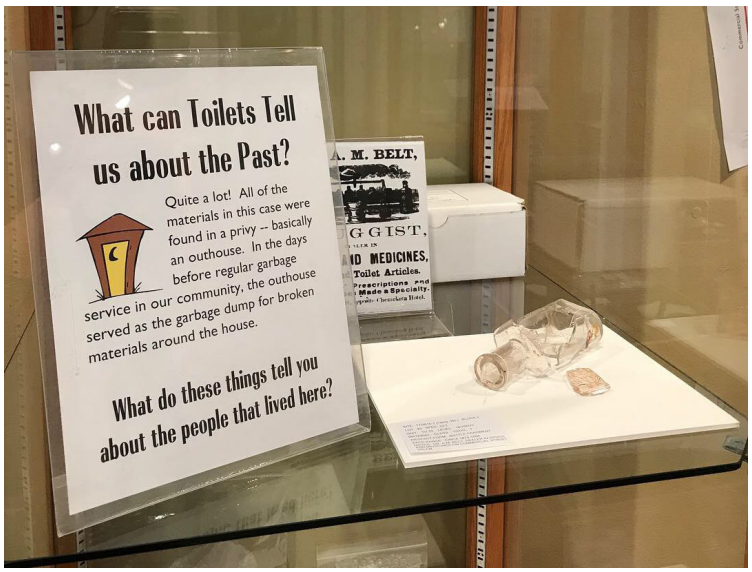
Arrival Exhibit contribution by first time participant Washington County Museum.

Our summer exhibit Yesterdayland: Innovations of the Past pulled hundreds of items from the WHC's Permanent Collection and showcased the earth-shattering, ground-breaking technological innovations of the past that have shaped the way we live and work today.

Exhibits | Cont.

The WHC was thrilled to partner with the Weaving Guilds of Oregon (WEGO) and the Salem Fiberarts Guild to present WEGO's 2018 Travelling show: Color Gone Wild which featured 67 hand-woven pieces made by Oregon weavers in a broad array of colors and styles.

We tried something new in 2018 with our first ever Pop-Up Exhibit. In collaboration with the City of Salem and the Salem Police Department we were able to showcase highlights from the archeological material recovered from the upcoming Salem Police Facility in digs conducted in the fall of 2018. This informal exhibit was an opportunity to showcase some very recently discovered history in our community! It was an absolute hit during Magic, attracting many folks who even had the opportunity to try their hand at archaeology in our interactive dig station.

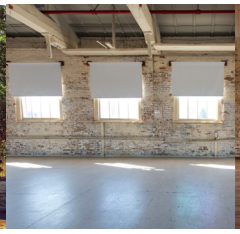
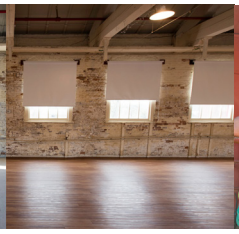
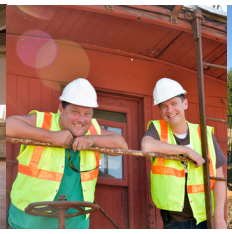


Work continues on the restoration of Caboose #507, bringing it closer to our dream of a interactive exhibit exploring rail history in our area. Renovation of the exterior and waterproofing is nearly complete thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers. We tested out some new interpretation at Magic at the Mill this year and gave folks their first glimpse.

Facilities

2018 was a big year for facilities with the installation of new flooring in the Spinning Room and the welcome of Caboose #507

- Continued to support and work on the caboose restoration project
- Prepared Salem Heights Community Hall for sale
- Said farewell to our long-time groundskeeper, Liz Boland
- Hired a new groundskeeper, Toby Lanham
- Prepped the café space for the new tenant, Krewe Du Soul
- Removed the diseased oak tree from the rental house yard
- Rebuilt the decking between the Dye House and the Boiler Room
- Installed new LED security lighting at strategic locations on campus
- Installed new emergency exit lighting in all buildings on campus
- Replaced beams and secured remaining beams for the car bridge project
- Recruited and trained a new Easter Seals janitorial person

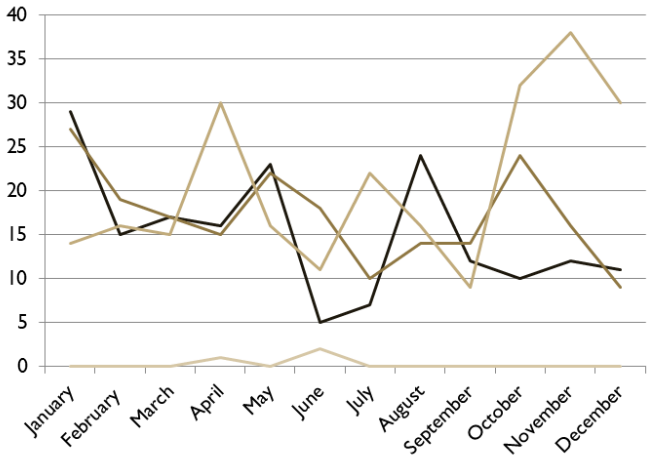
Caboose Club for the Preservation and Restoration of Caboose #507

Albany & Eastern Railroad • Ed Austin Associates • Boatwright Engineering Inc. • KayLee and Dave Brown • Cougar Construction • Tom and Ann Marie Dill • Financial Products & Services, Inc. (in honor of Cascade Warehouse Company of Salem) • Cheryl Griffith • Christopher and Lola Hackett • Meredith Kuhl • Miller Paint • Oldham Crane Service • O'Neill Pine Company • Photo Electric, LLC • Salem Alliance Church • Salem Downtown Rotary Club • The Salem Foundation • Sherman Brothers Trucking • Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund • Trust Management Services • Willamette University Atkinson Graduate School of Management

Research Services

2018 saw a 31% increase in the number of research requests filled by staff and volunteers at the Willamette Heritage Center!

Research Requests Filled in 2018

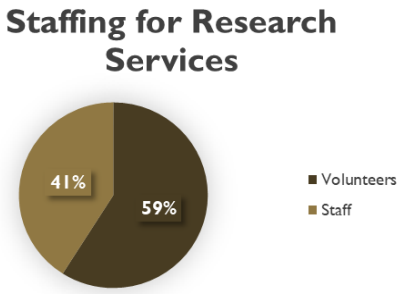


In Person Visitors **181**

Phone Requests **205**

Email Requests **249**

Mail Requests **6**



1,028 hours were spent operating the research library and providing services to patrons by staff and volunteers. Despite the 31% increase in requests, there was only an increase of 6% in time spent processing requests. This is in large part due to the wonderful work of our volunteers and the increased efficiency that has come from improved indexing and cataloging of our collections.

2018 Events & Programs

The WHC hosted the following signature events and programs in 2018

Signature Events:

Annual Fall Gala & Heritage Awards: "This is Our Life"

33rd Annual Sheep to Shawl

Oregon Trail Live™ #7

Magic at the Mill

Educational Programs:

Teen Interpreter Program

Textile Arts Classes

Urban Homesteaders Classes

Fleece to Fiber Workshops

Exhibits:

8th Annual Heritage Invitational Exhibit: "Arrival: Stories of Migration, Immigration and Journeys in the Mid-Willamette Valley"

Special Exhibit: "Yesterdayland: Innovations of the Past"

"Color Gone Wild"

Pop Up Exhibit: "Archaeology Salem"

Other Special Events:

Wedding & Event Show

Photo by Celine Chamberlin

2019

Mark your calendars for the exciting events, programs, and exhibits coming this year!

"Romance: Stories of Love and Passion in the Mid-Willamette Valley"

January 24 – April 20 • 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

34th Annual Sheep to Shawl

Saturday, May 11 • 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

"CSI: Salem: An historical look at fighting crime in the capital city"

June 8 – August 31, 2019 • 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

"Stitches & Stories: Discoveries from The Oregon Quilt Project"

September 27 – December 23 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Wedding & Event Show

Saturday, September 28 • 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Annual Fall Gala & Heritage Awards

Friday, October 18 • 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Magic at the Mill

December 19 – 23 • 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm