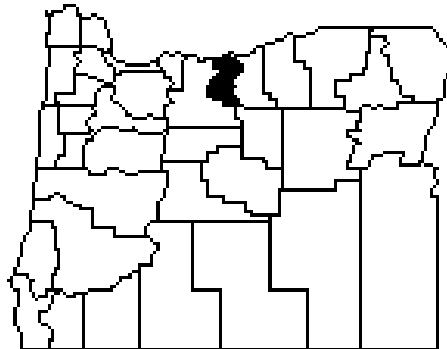


# Sherman County Cultural Coalition

## Cultural Plan for Sherman County

Revised and approved by the Sherman County Cultural Coalition  
January 2023



Copies of this plan are available from the Sherman County Cultural Coalition  
Post Office Box 23  
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## Background and Accomplishments of the Coalition

The Sherman County Cultural Coalition Planning Committee was a temporary body appointed by the Sherman County Court in response to the 2001 Oregon State legislature creating the Oregon Cultural Trust. The main purpose of the planning committee was to lay the groundwork for a permanent body (the current Sherman County Cultural Coalition) that would distribute funds allocated by the Oregon Cultural Trust to qualified grantees in the arts, heritage and humanities throughout Sherman County. The Planning Committee used the results of a community wide survey, as well as other community experiences of its members to develop the mission statement and priorities for the county.

The plan was subsequently reviewed by the coalition in 2008 in accordance with the requirements of the Cultural Trust. Much of the plan remains the same, meeting the needs of our Sherman County's population of under 2,000 residents.

Between 2005 and 2007, the Sherman County Cultural Coalition has granted funds to twenty individuals and organizations, some of which enabled the following events or projects to be offered in Sherman County:

- The acquisition and establishment of a historic Printing Press exhibit by the Sherman County Historical Society
- Two "Western Heritage Lecture Series", with special presenters on the topic.
- Visitations by published Oregon authors, Craig Lesley and Robin Cody, for audiences of adults and students.
- A children's Puppet show given by professional Puppeteers
- Two week long workshops at the Sherman County High School and Junior High, given by visiting artists, one resulting in the creation of a public series of tile mosaics at the high school.
- Performances/or Presentations by Native American Story Tellers, a Jazz Trio and Mexican folk songs at two Rufus annual Independence Day Celebrations.

## Mission

The mission of the Sherman County Cultural Coalition is to make a positive impact on the community and create a solid foundation for the future by identifying, preserving, developing and expanding cultural resources that reflect the unique spirit of Sherman County

## Priorities, Strategies, Benchmarks

When the Cultural assessment Surveys were tabulated and analyzed in 2003, the following cultural priorities were determined.

These priorities along with specific strategies, quantitative benchmarks and qualitative indicators of success comprise the Sherman County Cultural Plan.

1. Protect and strengthen investment in Sherman County's existing cultural resources.
2. Engage youth in the arts, heritage and humanities.
3. Promote cultural programs that stimulate cultural opportunities and economic growth and encourage that there are accessible, suitable and affordable spaces for cultural activities in Sherman County.
4. Promote publication and dissemination of cultural information related to the arts and culture within Sherman County
5. Encourage comprehensive arts-focused planning efforts in Sherman County through the integration of cultural development strategies with economic development policies.

### **Priority 1: Protect and strengthen investment in existing cultural resources.**

Strategy # 1: Award grants for organizations or individuals for the preservation and expansion of the Sherman County Historical Museum.

Benchmark: Amount of grant funding used to purchase new exhibits and/or preserve current exhibits.

Indicator of success: The museum will be able to maintain its inventory; and increase the number of exhibits.

Strategy # 2: Award grants for events and programs that support the Sherman County Public/School Library.

Benchmark: Number of grants and total dollars awarded to support public and school related cultural activities.

Indicator of success: The Library will be better able to serve as venue for cultural programs and events as evidenced by an increase in the number of free, public cultural events.

**Priority 2: Engage K-12 youth in the arts, heritage and humanities.**

Strategy # 1: Award grants for events that support organizations that involve youth in arts, heritage and humanities.

Benchmark: Number of grants and total dollars awarded to support projects benefiting and involving the youth of the county in culture, arts or heritage.

Indicator of success: An increase in participation at coalition funded cultural events targeted toward K-12 youth.

**Priority 3: Promote programs and events that stimulate cultural opportunities and economic growth.**

Strategy # 1: Award grants for the planning and presentation of festivals, fairs and other community cultural events.

Benchmark: Number of grants and total dollars awarded to support projects promoting culture and economic success in the county.

Indicator of success: Participants at the funded event(s) will have been exposed to cultural experience, while benefiting local businesses.

**Priority 4: Promote publication and dissemination of cultural information in Sherman County**

Strategy #1: Award grants to organizations and/or individuals for the publication and distribution of cultural information.

Benchmark: Amount of increased information on cultural programs and opportunities across Sherman County.

Indicator of success: More residents in Sherman County participate in cultural activities as a result of more available information.

## History and General Information on Sherman County

Sherman County, created in 1889 from the northeast corner of Wasco County, was named for Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. It was separated from Wasco County as much for its unique geological setting as for the settlers' desire to have their own political process. The rolling hills are bordered by the deep canyons of the John Day River to the east, the Columbia River to the north and the Deschutes River and Buck Hollow to the west and south.

The county was settled in the 1870s by stockmen; by 1881 the homesteaders arrived, permanently changing the area by plowing and fencing the tall grass. Since then, the county has been a wheat-growing area with miles of waving grain on rolling hills of wind-blown glacial silt. The total absence of timber in the county exemplifies the true meaning of the "wide open spaces of the West." Its pastoral landscape has spectacular views of canyons and rivers with mountains silhouetted in the distance. Recreation abounds on and along the rivers, from the famous and scenic fly-fishing, bike trails and white water rafting streams of the Deschutes to water-skiing, wind-surfing, boating, fishing and rafting on the John Day and Columbia Rivers. Sherman County is one of Oregon's leaders in soil and water conservation and now a producer of renewable energy with hundreds of giant wind turbines dotting the landscape on the north end of the county.

More background on Sherman County can be found online at the Oregon State Archives website: <http://www.sos.state.or.us/archives/county/cpshermanhome.html> and on the Sherman County website: <http://www.co.sherman.or.us>

### Cultural Inventory

*(Reviewed and updated April 2015)*

#### **Museums/Exhibits:**

Sherman County Historical Society Museum  
Horses to Horsepower Exhibit

#### **Historical Societies:**

Sherman County Historical Society  
Wasco Cemetery Association

#### **Historic Sites:**

Oregon Trail  
Barlow Trail  
The Dalles Military Road  
DeMoss Park  
Grass Valley Pavilion

Cottonwood Canyon State Park  
MacDonald's Ford/Ferry (on the John Day River)  
Cemeteries  
Free Bridge (on the Deschutes River)  
School Houses  
Granges  
Churches  
Sherman County Courthouse  
Oskaloosa Hotel (original courthouse)  
Crossfield Store  
Old Town Sites  
Early Railroads  
Shearer's Grade  
Fraternal Lodge Halls  
Native American Sites  
Petroglyphs/Pictographs

### **Humanities Organizations**

Sherman County Public/School Library  
Wasco City Library

### **Events**

Wasco Memorial Day Celebration  
Sherman County Fair  
Read Aloud at Sherman County Public/School Library  
Fine Arts Festival at Sherman Junior/Senior High School  
Car Club Racing at Oregon Raceway Park  
Wasco Salmon & Steelhead Fishing Tournament

### **Art**

Sherman Historical Society Museum Artist Series Exhibits  
Petroglyphs/Pictographs  
Individual Artists

### **Performance Arts**

Jager Bumz (music)

### **Other Cultural Organizations**

Sherman County Quilters

More information on cultural non-profits in Sherman County can be found on the Cultural Trust website:

[http://www.culturaltrust.org/programs/beneficiaries\\_qualifying\\_non\\_profits.php](http://www.culturaltrust.org/programs/beneficiaries_qualifying_non_profits.php)



# Sherman County Cultural Coalition Bylaws

## **Article 1. Name**

Sherman County Cultural Coalition

## **Article 2. Purpose**

The Sherman County Cultural Coalition's role shall be to set policy for the organization; administer funds given to the Coalition from the Oregon Cultural Trust and other sources; appoint a fiscal agent; and lead the community in implementing the Sherman County Cultural Plan. The Coalition will ensure that the Arts, Heritage and Humanities are addressed in accordance with the Priorities in the County Cultural Plan. It will implement the Plan in a way that fairly encourages countywide participation in cultural activities.

It shall update the County Cultural Plan as needed. The members shall review the Cultural Plan at least once each year to determine if updates or amendments are necessary. However, the Cultural Plan shall undergo a complete review and revision no less than once every five years.

It shall keep the Coalition website, [www.coaltitions.culturaltrust.org/sherman](http://www.coaltitions.culturaltrust.org/sherman) , updated and submit annual reports to the Oregon Cultural Trust.

## **Article 3. Members**

The Sherman County Cultural Coalition (hereafter called the Coalition) shall consist of not less than four members. Members must reside or work in Sherman County or represent an organization or business with roots in the County. Members will be encouraged to make a financial contribution to the Oregon Cultural Trust. Members will be encouraged to attend selected events and/or activities funded by the Coalition, including some outside their primary areas of interest. During their term of office, members may not receive individual Coalition grants. Members who are principals in an organization seeking a grant must disclose their affiliation and may neither vote nor participate in the Coalition's deliberations regarding the proposed grant.

Coalition members will elect new or replacement members as required. New members will be those applicants who best complement existing members. The coalition will recruit new members from organizations, geographical areas, backgrounds, etc., not represented by existing members.

## **Article 4. Compensation**

Coalition members shall receive no salary. They may be reimbursed for "out-of-pocket" expenses, including transportation at the IRS approved mileage rate, upon approval of the Coalition. This does not preclude the Coalition from contracting necessary staff functions, such as a web-master, administrative assistant, clerical help, etc., after it has determined that it will be impossible or impractical to have the task done by dedicated volunteers.

## **Article 5. Officers**

There shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Sherman Development League officers will serve as the officers for the Coalition. These officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at each annual meeting.

### **Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall facilitate Coalition meetings and liaison with County and State officials.

### **Vice-Chairperson**

The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson as requested and act for the Chairperson in his/her absence.

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer shall oversee the treasurer's report and present the report at all Coalition meetings. The report shall include all applicable fiscal deadlines as well as the current status of finances.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall notify all Coalition members, as appropriate, of upcoming meetings. The Secretary shall also keep minutes of Coalition meetings and present the minutes at subsequent meetings.

## **Article 6. Meetings**

The Coalition shall meet as often as it deems necessary. Any formal action of the coalition shall be taken with a majority vote by a quorum of the membership. A quorum shall consist of a majority of coalition members.

## **Article 7. Fiscal Considerations**

The Coalition shall ensure that the legislative requirement for a fiscal agency has been met. The Sherman Development League, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, has via resolution agreed to function as the Sherman County Cultural Coalition Board and will act as its own fiscal agent.

## **Article 8. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Coalition in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Coalition may adopt. Although this group should operate with some formality given its state-mandated function, it should employ the principles of consensus as outlined in the "Procedure in Small Boards" found on page 470 in the 10th edition as much as practical.

## **Article 9. Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Coalition by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at a regular meeting at least 60 days previously and a copy sent to the Oregon Cultural Trust.

# Grant Application Process

The Sherman County Cultural Coalition will award grants on a competitive basis to proposals that:

- Fulfill one or more of the priorities established in the Sherman County Cultural Plan.
- Result in a demonstrable benefit to County residents and visitors.

Both individuals and groups may seek Coalition grants. Groups need not be ongoing organizations and applicants need not be legally recognized nonprofits. But all applications must be based on the priorities described in the Sherman County Cultural Plan.

Grant funds will be limited. The Coalition receives its funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust and other sources. The amount of funding the Coalition may award depends both upon the funds that business and individuals donate to the Oregon Cultural Trust in previous fiscal year and upon the amount of carry-over funding, if any, maintained by the Coalition. The Coalition cannot guarantee that it will have any funds or any particular level of funds to distribute in any year.

The Coalition's grant year begins July 1, when the Oregon Cultural Trust begins to distribute funds to County and Tribal coalitions. The Coalition may establish and announce one or more application and grant cycles each year. Currently the Coalition offers a spring and fall grant cycle with the opportunity for special application for grant funds on an ongoing basis at the discretion of the Coalition and only if the application can be processed by a quorum of Coalition members.

Grant applicants should generally consider Coalition funds to be supplemental and not the sole source of funding for their projects. The Coalition encourages matching funds whenever possible.

## **The Application Process**

Applicants will submit an application to the Coalition for review by the required deadline. Applications will be evaluated based on how well the proposed project addresses the priorities of the Sherman County Cultural Plan. Projects must address at least one or more of the priorities listed. The Coalition will issue notices of consideration to applicants whose projects it will consider funding. Applicants whose applications are questionable will be notified and may seek the Coalition's advice and assistance in preparing their proposals for resubmission within the current or subsequent grant cycle.

## **Grant Admission Guidelines**

- Applicants must be individuals or organizations providing a service/project relating to culture in Sherman County for the residents of Sherman County primarily.
- Projects should fulfill one of these goals:
  - a) Protect and/or strengthen investments in existing cultural resources, or
  - b) Engage the community in the arts, heritage or humanities
- Grants will be awarded on the basis of community need and/or positive impact on Sherman County and its residents.
- Grant applications must be submitted by the postmarked deadline.
- Grant funds will be available 30 days after the Cultural Coalition meeting for the review of grant proposals. It is possible the coalition may contact applicants during this time for clarification or possible suggestions regarding grant applications.
- The coalition is seeking a broad exposure to culture through these grants and therefore encourages innovation and creativity. Grants that have other potential funding sources are encouraged to apply; however, since our goal is to reach a wide variety of cultural experiences, these grants may be viewed more critically.
- It is not the purpose of the Cultural Coalition to fund ongoing programs or favor specific organizations with annual awards. With this in view, it is possible that first time or less frequent applicants may get favorable notice. Previous grantees are encouraged to offer new and creative proposals/projects.
- None of the above statements are meant to discourage any organization or individual from applying. The cultural coalition seeks a broad spectrum of quality cultural opportunities for the residents of Sherman County and encourages all to apply.

*Application:* Within the application form, the applicant will identify the person or contact responsible for the project components a detailed budget and description of which of the priorities the project will address.

In making awards, the Coalition will be alert to fairness and accountability issues. Fairness will include assurance that, over time, grants are fairly distributed to individuals and organizations bringing cultural experience to all parts of Sherman County. Accountability will include measures to indicate when the promised project has been completed.

The coalition will have the power to impose appropriate safeguards on awards to protect public funds. These safeguards may include on-going communications, including structured progress reports, between the applicant and either the Coalition or another organization serving as fiscal agent or overseer for the project.

Projects undertaken by a single individual will be subject to oversight criteria to ensure that the project goes forward if appropriate, in the event the individual applicant is unable or unwilling to follow through as promised. Funds may be dispensed in installments, with subsequent installments dependent upon receipt of satisfactory interim or final reports.

In general, the following are not eligible for Coalition grants:

- Scholarships
- Operating costs, except as part of a viable crisis recovery plan
- Projects which primarily benefit a political, religious, labor, fraternal or athletic group.
- Fund-raising efforts, except those in which fund-raising is incidental to a project that meets Cultural Plan priorities.