



June 1, 2021



House Special Committee on Modernizing the People's Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 333
Salem, Oregon 97301

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oregoncapitolfoundation.org

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. Meek and Rep. Wallan, and Committee members
Rep. Breese-Iverson and Rep. Bynum

It is with sincere appreciation that the Oregon State Capitol Foundation Board thanks you for your support of our nonprofit organization. Together, we are serving Oregon's citizens, Capitol visitors and the people who conduct their life's work inside the building.

As I listened to the May 26 discussion of the House Special Committee On Modernizing the People's Legislature, I was impressed by the credit given to the Foundation for our support of many of the programs and events hosted at the Capitol.

However, to be fair, the Foundation cannot take credit for the selection of the artwork, exhibits and displays located throughout the Capitol. That function is under the purview of the Legislative Administrator. While the Oregon State Capitol Foundation provides some of the funding, including funding for the exhibits in the built-in display cases, the Foundation does not have direct input into the content used within.

The members of the House Special Committee On Modernizing the People's Legislature expressed interest in forming a work group to study and make recommendations regarding the artwork and exhibits displayed in the Capitol. The Foundation would enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to work with you in this effort as it aligns with our mission to preserve our Capitol, share its history and engage Oregonians in our democracy.

The Foundation-sponsored, award-winning Capitol History Gateway programming promotes diversity, equity and inclusion. Through exhibits, displays and events, The new Oregon Capitol Welcome Center, located in the heart of the building, will entice visitors to learn more about the history of all Oregonians from the perspectives of groups and communities throughout

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shares its history and engages Oregonians in our democracy.

the state. The experience will also teach visitors about the building itself, our state's landmark legislation and how easy it is to get involved in Oregon's government.

A focus of the Capitol History Gateway exhibits is recognizing and honoring the collective heritage of Oregonians. Over the years, you may have noticed the panels and memorabilia in the galleria recognizing the many contributions of African Americans, Basque Americans, Chinese Americans, Latino Americans, Polynesian Americans, Native Americans and other cultural groups to the Oregon story.

Free, family friendly and educational Capitol History Gateway events at the Capitol celebrate the diverse traditions, heritage, cultures and ethnicities that made Oregonians so unique. Events include: Oregon's birthday and Anniversary of Statehood, Cherry Blossom Day, Asian and Pacific Islander Day, Hispanic Heritage Day, Multicultural Day, Oregon's Bounty, A Tribute to Veterans, Tree Lighting Celebration, and Holidays at the Capitol.

Please contact me if I may provide additional information on the role of the Foundation or how we may partner with you to provide a more inclusive and welcoming visitor experience.

Sincerely,



Genoa Ingram, Executive Director
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"Our Capitol is a symbol of democratic process and freedoms. It represents the aspirations of our citizens. Its stories are a mix of achievements and struggles. Our current circumstances underscore how critical it is to know our history and how important it is to redress grievances. As a board, we have a renewed commitment to telling those stories directly, truthfully and without bias."

— Kim Duncan, 2020 Chair
Oregon State Capitol Foundation