

Strengthening the Arts, Heritage, and Humanities:

The Basis for a Vibrant Social and Economic Future



A Plan for Benton County's Culture including

The Benton County Cultural Coalition: Its Structure and Rules for Operation

October 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Benton County Cultural Plan

Benton County, established in 1847, has a long tradition of supporting the Arts, Heritage, and the Humanities. With a heritage that dates back to the time of the Kalapuya Indians before the first settlers arrived in 1845, Benton County has played an important role in the history of the state and the region. The county seat, Corvallis, served as the head of river transportation (in 1851) and as the state's capital in 1855. Soon, other communities emerged, including Alpine, Alsea, Bellfountain, Blodgett, Irish Bend, Kings Valley, Monroe, Philomath, Summit, and Wren. Adair Village developed after the Adair Air Force Station closed in 1969.

Benton County's economy is diverse, based on higher education, technology, agriculture, forest products, and other light industries. The hospital and surrounding medical facilities in Corvallis are a major regional medical center. Benton County residents enjoy a wealth of cultural activities stimulated by many organizations representing wide interests in the arts and the humanities. In addition, Oregon State University is a major cultural asset.

Today, much needs to be done to maintain and enhance this rich culture. Erosion of the financial base for all aspects of the arts, heritage, and humanities jeopardizes the continuation of many of the county's cultural activities. Cultural groups need volunteers and leaders as well as funds. Our current lifestyle of long working hours, dual-income families, and the large number of cultural groups results in insufficient time and funding for the many cultural opportunities. In addition, many people are unaware of the existence of many of the cultural opportunities in Benton County. As aspects of our cultural past disappear, we are losing knowledge of much of our rural heritage. The past will become invisible unless we make an effort to teach our children about this heritage.

The Benton County Cultural Coalition Planning Committee has a vision for Benton County's culture: ***An active cultural life throughout Benton County with high quality cultural experiences that are accessible to everyone.***

The Planning Committee developed its plan around five coordinated priorities intended to sustain and promote future growth of the cultural life in Benton County and to make cultural programs accessible to everyone. These priorities, based on comments collected at public meetings and responses to a widely-distributed questionnaire, serve as a guide for the future

work of the Cultural Coalition. The plan defines each priority, lists one or more strategies to affect change, and provides benchmarks to be used in measuring the successful implementation of these strategies. The priorities are:

- strengthen cultural education to reach the county's diverse population;
- strengthen the dissemination of information about county cultural programs, events, and individuals;
- strengthen the financial support of existing 501(c)3 cultural organizations and other cultural programs and events in Benton County;
- strengthen cultural programs that respect the diversity of our county;
- strengthen the support for our cultural infrastructure.

Collectively the strategies for action supporting these priorities exhibit a number of cross-cutting themes: access to cultural activities for everyone; attention to Benton County's diverse population; availability of information concerning the county's cultural opportunities; development of new cultural partnerships; and the strengthening of educational opportunities for all citizens to learn about culture and to value culture as a positive influence on our society. Although these priorities and their strategies may seem ambitious, the coalition will identify specific priorities for particular attention during any given year.

The Benton County Cultural Coalition

The Benton County Cultural Coalition will support the maintenance and enhancement of culture within Benton County and will serve as an advocate for culture. It will not compete with existing cultural organizations for funds, volunteers, or attention. It will establish benchmarks for evaluating the overall cultural enhancement within Benton County. The Coalition will report annually to the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Benton County Commissioners on the status of culture within the county.

Membership on the Coalition will consist of fifteen Benton County citizens representing the various aspects of Benton County culture. At least seven of its members will be from outside the Corvallis area. The term of office for each member will be two years with the possibility of two successive reappointments. Officers of the coalition will be selected by the Coalition members, and will consist of a chair, vice-chair, and secretary/treasurer.

The following individuals have been selected by the Planning Committee to serve on the Coalition beginning July 1, 2004.

Zel Brook, Corvallis (*visual art*)
Kathy Burton, No. Albany (*design, history*)
May Dasch, Philomath (*heritage*)
Walter Frankel, Corvallis (*music*)
Kathy Jederlinich, Blodgett (*visual art*)
Susan Johnson, Corvallis (*visual art*)
Paula Krane, Corvallis (*user of culture*)
Bill Lewis, Philomath (*heritage*)
Micki Reaman, Corvallis (*literature*)
Bill Robbins, Corvallis (*history*)
Mary Rounds, Alsea (*literature, art*)
Marilyn Stewart, Corvallis (*history, music*)
Diane Tarter, Adair Village (*theater, design*)
Rick Wallace, Corvallis (*theater*)
George Wisner, Alpine (*history, heritage*)

The Coalition, affiliated with the Benton County Board of Commissioners and the State of Oregon Cultural Trust, will be responsible for all matters pertaining to the distribution of funds provided by the Oregon Cultural Trust in accordance with state guidelines. The Coalition will evaluate, select, and fund proposals for the granting of funds and will then monitor and evaluate all grants. Funds will be distributed by the coalition annually or biennially to Benton County cultural organizations on the basis of competitive proposals. The Benton County Board of Commissioners will serve as the fiscal agent for these funds. Over a five-year period the funds should be distributed equitably among the Arts, Heritage, and Humanities.



A Plan for Benton County's Culture
including

**The Benton County Cultural Coalition:
Its Structure and Rules for Operation**

**Strengthening the Arts, Heritage,
and Humanities:**

*The Basis for a Vibrant Social
and Economic Future*

Introduction

Established in 1847, Benton County has had a long tradition of supporting the Arts, Heritage, and the Humanities. With a heritage that dates back to the time of the Kalapuya Indians before the first settlers arrived in 1845, Benton County has played an important role in the history of the state and the region. The county seat, Corvallis, served as the head of river transportation (1851) and as the state's capital in 1855. Located at the navigable headwaters of the Willamette River, Corvallis developed into a regional trading center and became a major stop on the Applegate Trail to the gold country of California. In 1868, Corvallis College was designated "the agricultural College" of the State of Oregon, a land grant college under the Morrill Act and the state's first institution of public higher education. In 1879, the development of the railroad through Corvallis spurred further growth. Outside Corvallis, other communities emerged, including Alpine, Alesia, Bellfountain, Blodgett, Irish Bend, Kings Valley, Monroe, Philomath, Summit, and Wren. Adair Village developed after the Adair Air Force Station closed in 1969, and is one of the county's incorporated cities, along with Corvallis, Monroe, North Albany, and Philomath.

Today Benton County's economy is diverse, based on higher education, technology, agriculture, forest products, and other light industries. The hospital and surrounding medical facilities in Corvallis are a major regional medical center. Benton County residents enjoy a wealth of cultural activities stimulated by many organizations representing wide interests in the arts and the humanities. Interest in the heritage of our people, from Kalapuya to recent arrivals, is strong. With the development of Oregon State University, Corvallis has become a center for high quality cultural events. Opportunities to participate in the numerous cultural activities abound in virtually every community. The hospitable rural environment of the county has resulted in a deep respect for nature and has stimulated cultural activities throughout the county.

In spite of the evolution of such a strong and diverse base, much still needs to be done to maintain and enhance the rich culture within the county. Recent erosion of the financial base for all aspects of the arts, heritage, and humanities has jeopardized the continuation of many of the county's cultural activities. In recognition of the serious threats to culture throughout the state of Oregon, the 2001 state legislature passed the Oregon Cultural Trust

"The abundance of cultural activities in Benton County helps to make this such an enriching place to live. We should do everything we can to support our culture."

Act. The trust was created to support and maintain existing cultural resources,¹ to provide encouragement and support for new cultural efforts, and to expand public awareness of culture and enhance opportunities to participate in cultural events. An overriding goal of the Trust is to ensure that Oregon's cultural resources are strong and dynamic contributions to the quality of life of every Oregonian.

To ensure that such cultural resources reflect the needs and the desires of local citizens, the Trust charged each county and tribal authority with developing its own cultural plan. This cultural plan for Benton County is the result of the work of a planning committee chosen by the Benton County Commissioners. (See Appendix A.) The commissioners charged the planning committee to

1) define the structure of Benton County's Cultural Coalition, which will decide how grant funds are to be used county-wide, and appoint people to be members of the Coalition; and

2) create a Cultural Plan, which will include priorities for investment, strategies for action, and benchmarks for measuring achievements.

Cultural Strengths

Benton County is fortunate to have many arts, heritage, and humanities organizations in rural areas and in Corvallis. These include, but are not limited to, Alsea Community Effort (ACE), ArtCentric (home of the Corvallis Arts Center and Linn-Benton Council for the Arts), the Benton County Historical Museum, the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, the Majestic Theater, the South Benton Community Center in Alpine, and the Summit Community Center. Most of these cultural centers are housed in historic structures and offer a rich variety of both amateur and professional cultural presentations as well as educational and participatory programs. Numerous

¹*The Oregon Cultural Trust defines culture as arts, heritage, and humanities. These areas include, but are not limited to, the following: anthropology; archaeology; architecture; art history, theory, and criticism; community cultural development; cultural and heritage tourism; dance; design; ethics; folk and traditional arts; historical societies and museums; historic trails and landscapes; history and historic preservation; landmarks and historic sites; linguistics; literature; living history programs; media arts such as film and video; museums; music; opera; oral traditions; philosophy; theater; and visual arts.*

guilds, critique groups, a Chautauqua program, music groups such as the Corvallis Folklore Society, Corvallis Youth Symphony, Heart of the Valley Children's Choir, Opera Theater Corvallis, and programs developed by branches of the public library, Benton Center of Linn-Benton Community College, departments of Parks and Recreation, and Oregon State University add to the county's cultural educational opportunities. Also strong are the outdoor festivals that expand our cultural menu, including the Benton County Fair, da Vinci Days, Fall Festival, King's Valley Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair, Philomath Frolic, and the Summit Talent Show. With the addition of its new riverfront park district, Corvallis has a growing collection of public art. The county is home for a large number of individuals working in many cultural professions.

Oregon State University is a major cultural asset to the county. The university's many cultural resources include its multi-cultural student body, staff, and faculty, music programs, Craft Center, exhibitions, plays, lectures, and cross-cultural events. All are open to the public. The Corvallis-OSU Symphony, Corvallis OSU Music Association, Chamber Music Corvallis, and Corvallis Repertory Singers offer a rich variety of quality music for the entire county. The university also has a large public art collection, partly as a result of the state's One Percent for Art program. The art collection hanging in the Valley Library is particularly notable.

Benton County, which for decades was almost exclusively of European heritage, now has an increasingly diverse population that adds greatly to the cultural richness of the area.

Cultural Barriers

In spite of the diversity and richness of the county's cultural offerings, barriers do exist to maintaining and enhancing those offerings. Virtually all the county's major cultural institutions are underfunded. This is, in part, a result of the competition by a large number of cultural programs for funds within a county with a relatively small population, few large businesses, and a depressed economy. Cultural programs are often the first to be decreased or eliminated when state and county budgets are tight. The county's public schools, Oregon State University, and public cultural institutions such as ArtCentric, the Benton County Historical Museum, and the Majestic Theater have been particularly affected.

"My biggest concern is for the established groups and organizations to reach their full capabilities and I think the lack of funds is threatening them."

Cultural groups need volunteers and leaders as well as funds. Our current lifestyle of long working hours, dual-income families, and the large number of cultural groups results in insufficient time and funding for the many cultural opportunities. In addition, many people are unaware of the existence of many of the cultural opportunities in Benton County. Although the staff at ArtCentric and the Corvallis Benton County Public Library work hard to fill the information gap in the arts with their newsletters and web sites, more coordinated cross-referencing of information is needed for culture as a whole. Some county residents have commented that information about many of OSU's public cultural offerings is unavailable to them. They also say that many of the historic sites, public art, and the cultural past are unknown to them. The local newspaper makes an effort to inform the public about cultural opportunities; due to limited circulation and lack of funds, it sometimes misses printing information about programs that count on the local press for publicity.

"I think we are very rich in cultural organizations and activities. What I think is lacking is sufficient visibility for these organizations, cross-marketing approaches..."

As aspects of our cultural past disappear, we are losing knowledge of much of our rural heritage. The past will become invisible unless we make an effort to teach our children about this heritage. Other aspects of culture often invisible to our citizens are the institutions and individuals who have made an impact on culture beyond our county, including the writers, artists, and musicians who have a national reputation, and organizations such as CALYX, which publishes works of writers and artists from throughout the world.

The Enhancement of Public Arts, Heritage, and Humanities in Benton County

Vision:

*An active cultural life throughout Benton County
with high quality cultural experiences
that are accessible to everyone.*

The Benton County Cultural Coalition will support the maintenance and enhancement of culture within Benton County. It will serve as an advocate for culture and will not compete with existing cultural organizations for funds, volunteers, or attention.

The Benton County Cultural Coalition Planning Committee has identified five coordinated priorities intended to sustain and promote future growth of the cultural life in Benton County and to make cultural programs accessible to everyone. The priorities represent a synthesis of comments collected at public meetings and responses to a widely-distributed questionnaire. The planning committee developed the following list of priorities as a guide for the future work of the Cultural Coalition. This Five-Year Plan defines each priority, lists one or more strategies to affect change, and provides benchmarks to be used in measuring the successful implementation of these strategies. It should be kept in mind that these are coordinated priorities, linked by several cross-cutting themes: access, diversity, information sharing, and education.

Although these priorities and their strategies may seem ambitious, the coalition will identify specific priorities for particular attention during any given year.

*“Because of the recent cuts in school programs,
cultural education in our schools is more
important than ever.”*

PRIORITY A: Strengthen cultural education to reach the county's diverse population.

A culturally educated public values the products and the individuals working in the arts, humanities and heritage and actively participates in county cultural activities.

Strategies

- Support quality cultural programs for children in schools and in after-school programs that include sequential and multi-cultural/diversity approaches.
- Encourage programs that reach out to all socio-economic levels.
- Encourage mentor programs that reward both the student and the mentor.
- Support education programs that record oral histories of our long-time residents and identify and honor local cultural figures of the past.
- Encourage our citizens to show they value cultural education by their volunteer participation and financial support.

Quantitative Benchmarks (Performance Measures)

- At least one new or expanded cultural education program will be available to the students of each of ten elementary schools over the five-year period, as part of the school curriculum or as an after-school program.
- All new education programs will have a multi-cultural and sequential aspect.
- Five oral history programs, at least three of them involving students, will record stories from twenty-five long-time county residents over the five-year period.
- Three county cultural non-profit organizations will have a 5% increase in individual and/or corporate financial support of their cultural education programs during the five-year period.

“Who is documenting the cultural history of Benton County....including the preservation of oral histories?”

Qualitative Benchmarks (Indicators of Success)

- Appreciation of cultural education programs will increase.

- Citizens will become more aware of county cultural organizations and individuals who contribute to culture.
- Understanding of our county's history will increase.
- An increase in student access to cultural education programs inside and outside of our schools will be documented.
- Access to and participation in cultural activities by all citizens will increase.

PRIORITY B: Strengthen the dissemination of information about county cultural programs, events, and individuals.

There are numerous cultural programs in the county, but citizens often lack knowledge about them. Citizens and cultural organizations benefit from a coordinated effort in the visibility, planning, and marketing of information.

Strategies

- Develop a Benton County Cultural Coalition web site to provide access to information about the many county cultural organizations and programs, with their contact information, volunteer opportunities, and links to other cultural web sites.
- Support the development of web sites for individual cultural organizations.
- Support the development of an annual event to promote and showcase the many cultural programs and organizations of Benton County, including the programs that reflect ethnic diversity.
- Encourage the local media to increase promotion of local cultural programs.
- Encourage collaborative means to increase the spread of local cultural news.
- Support a public campaign to inform county citizens, service groups, and businesses about cultural programs and their financial and volunteer needs.

“We should have a county cultural day or weekend when events could be held in all communities simultaneously.”

Quantitative Benchmarks (Performance Measures)

- The Cultural Coalition web site will be established and maintained. Use of the web site will demonstrate a 5% increase each year.
- Ten links to other cultural web sites in the county and in neighboring counties will be established within three years.
- A brochure will be printed and distributed to inform the public about the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Benton County Cultural Coalition.
- Five new or expanded collaborative efforts will disseminate local cultural information in five years.

“We need a workable web site that lists all cultural assets in the county with contact information.”

Qualitative Benchmarks (Indicators of Success)

- Knowledge of and enthusiasm for the county’s cultural programs will increase.
- Knowledge and experience will be shared among cultural programs.

PRIORITY C: Strengthen the financial support of existing 501(c)3 Benton County cultural institutions and other cultural programs, as well as individuals working in the arts, humanities, and heritage.

There is concern about the underfunding of our cultural groups, which has led to a reduction in access, programming, and public participation.

Strategies

- Award Cultural Trust funds on a competitive basis to 501(c)3 cultural organizations in Benton County.

“We need to encourage partnerships with other cultural groups throughout the county, as well as with non-cultural groups such as schools, city governments, businesses, hospitals, etc.”

- Educate the business community and service organizations about the contributions cultural programs make toward the County's business and economic success.
- Encourage collaboration and partnerships among cultural groups and local businesses, educational institutions, government agencies, and neighboring counties.
- Encourage partnerships and collaborations between cultural groups and other groups, such as those active in environmental issues, medical healing, organizations for disabled citizens, and abuse prevention programs.
- Encourage the development of ways to make programs accessible to low-income citizens.
- Seek funds from other sources to supplement the Oregon Cultural Trust funds.

"We need more creative collaborations among organizations...Why couldn't a literary group, the library, ArtCentric, and the Majestic co-sponsor an original play-writing competition, for instance?"

Quantitative Benchmarks (Performance Measures)

- On average, non-profit cultural groups will see a 5% increase in funding over five years.
- One new collaborative project with neighboring counties will be initiated.
- Five new successful partnerships will be established and three of these partnerships will include groups that are ethnically diverse.

Qualitative Benchmarks (Indicators of Success)

- Cultural Coalition efforts will result in stronger and more stable cultural programs.
- A network of connections among different cultural groups, and between non-profit cultural groups and businesses will become stronger and more wide-spread.
- Cultural programs will become more accessible to all citizens.

PRIORITY D: Strengthen cultural programs that respect the diversity of our county.

Many national and international cultures exist in our county, as well as various socio-economic and disabled groups. We recognize and celebrate them all.

Strategies

- Identify leaders in various communities to assist the Coalition with this priority.
- Encourage collaborative efforts between major cultural organizations and ethnic and other communities, such as the disabled, and diverse socio-economic groups.
- Encourage collaborations that involve the diverse student population at OSU with Benton County schools and community cultural events.
- Support and encourage cultural activities of ethnic communities.

“We need events that celebrate the things our community has in common—a Unity Day to bring together all the ethnic and socio-economic groups to celebrate the many ideals and values we all share.”

Quantitative Benchmarks (Performance Measures)

- Fifty per cent of the 501(c)3 cultural organizations will include diversity in their programming.
- Ten multi-cultural programs will have a 10% increase in attendance over five years.
- Twenty people from diverse backgrounds will work with county school children.

Qualitative Benchmarks (Indicators of Success)

- Ethnic and other diverse groups in the county will become more visible.

PRIORITY E: Strengthen the support for our cultural infrastructure.

Cultural facilities, historic sites (including the rivers and the railroad), parks, and public art are valued in Benton County.

Strategies

- Conduct a cultural infrastructure needs assessment.
- Support the continued beautification of our county with public art, parks, gardens, plazas, and historic plaques.
- Support the campaign to develop the permanent home for the Horner collection.
- Encourage the preservation and restoration of public and private historic landmarks, such as the Hull-Oakes Lumber Company and the Whiteside Theater in Corvallis.
- Encourage the improvement of existing facilities, such as the South Benton Community Center and the stage at Starker Arts Park.
- Encourage the use of the rivers and the railroads as links among the cultures of our communities.

“I would like to see a careful analysis of the facilities that are currently available in Benton County so that a more accurate assessment could be made of what type of facilities are truly needed and how current facilities could be better used and promoted.”

Quantitative Benchmarks (Performance Measures)

- A cultural facilities needs assessment will be completed within two years.
- Five new public arts and heritage facilities or infrastructure projects will be completed and/or initiated in five years.
- Support the completion within five years of a study on the use of rivers and railroads to link the cultures of the county’s communities.

“We need more venues for local artists.”

Qualitative Benchmarks (Indicators of Success)

- Citizens of Benton County will gain in their appreciation of the aesthetics and history of their county.
- Satisfaction with our cultural facilities will grow.

“Developing railroads and rivers as linkages throughout the county could increase knowledge among communities and enhance attendance at events.”

Concluding Statement

This plan is designed to provide an active cultural life throughout Benton County by establishing a Cultural Coalition which will support high quality cultural experiences that are accessible to everyone. Through its activities the Coalition will lead a coordinated effort to enhance Benton County's culture according to five priorities identified by citizens of the county. These priorities are:

- strengthen cultural education to reach the county's diverse population;
- strengthen the dissemination of information about county cultural programs, events, and individuals;
- strengthen the financial support of existing 501(c)3 cultural organizations and other cultural programs and events in Benton County;
- strengthen cultural programs that respect the diversity of our county;
- strengthen the support for our cultural infrastructure.

Collectively the strategies for action supporting these priorities exhibit a number of cross-cutting themes: access to cultural activities; attention to Benton County's diverse population; availability of information concerning the county's cultural opportunities; developing new cultural partnerships; and strengthening the educational opportunities for all citizens to learn about culture and to value culture as a positive influence on our society.

The Benton County Cultural Coalition

The purpose of the Cultural Coalition is to encourage and guide the cultural development of Benton County. The Coalition will be affiliated with the Benton County Board of Commissioners and the State of Oregon Cultural Trust. It will be responsible for all matters pertaining to the distribution of funds provided by the Oregon Cultural Trust in accordance with state guidelines. The Coalition will evaluate, select, and fund proposals for the granting of funds and will then monitor and evaluate all grants.

In addition, the Coalition will establish benchmarks for evaluating cultural enhancement within Benton County. It will use these benchmarks to monitor progress in cultural development and report annually to the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Benton County Commissioners on the status of culture within the county.

Membership

The Coalition will consist of fifteen members representing three major aspects of Benton County culture: arts, heritage, and humanities. At least seven of its members should be from outside the Corvallis area.

The term of office for each member will be two years with the possibility of two successive reappointments. Appointments will be staggered so that eight members are selected one year and seven the following year. County Commissioners may serve as ex officio members of the Coalition. Terms will start at the beginning of the county's fiscal year, July 1. After the first year, new members will be determined by the Coalition.

Officers of the coalition will be selected by the Coalition members, and will consist of a chair, vice-chair, and secretary/treasurer. The chair will preside over all Coalition meetings; in the absence of the chair, the vice-chair will preside. The first chair will be selected from those Coalition members who have served on the planning committee; thereafter, the chair will be chosen from those who have served on the Coalition for at least one year. The vice-chair will oversee the evaluation of proposals and granting of funds. The secretary/treasurer will be responsible for all minutes and financial records.

The following individuals have been selected by the Planning Committee to serve on the Coalition beginning July 1, 2004. Please see Appendix D for contact information. Determination of one- and two-year terms will be made by the Coalition at its first meeting.

Coalition Members:

Zel Brook, Corvallis (*visual art*)

Kathy Burton, No. Albany (*design, history*)

May Dasch, Philomath (*heritage*)
Walter Frankel, Corvallis (*music*)
Kathy Jederlinich, Blodgett (*visual art*)
Susan Johnson, Corvallis (*visual art*)
Paula Krane, Corvallis (*user of culture*)
Bill Lewis, Philomath (*heritage*)
Micki Reaman, Corvallis (*literature*)
Bill Robbins, Corvallis (*history*)
Mary Rounds, Alsea (*literature, art*)
Marilyn Stewart, Corvallis (*history, music*)
Diane Tarter, Adair Village (*theater, design*)
Rick Wallace, Corvallis (*theater*)
George Wisner, Alpine (*history, heritage*)

Committees

There shall be a Grants Committee, chaired by the Coalition Vice-Chair, responsible for proposal and grant procedures. All grants will be made with the approval of a majority of the full Coalition.

A Nominating Committee will nominate members for the normal rotation of Coalition members and at such times as a vacancy on the Coalition may occur. The Nominating Committee will solicit new members from all of Benton County through an annual call for members on its web site, in the local papers, and from county 501(c)3 organizations. The Coalition will inform the Oregon Cultural Trust of changes in Coalition membership.

Other committees may be formed as needed. These committees will be chaired by a member of the Cultural Coalition, and may include citizens who are not members of the Coalition.

Review

The Coalition will review and may amend the cultural plan every five years. For this purpose the Coalition will create a Benton County Cultural Plan committee which will utilize information from the annual reports submitted by organizations receiving Coalition grants, public input, and input from county 501(c) 3 organizations.

The Coalition will review and may amend these policies and procedures at least every two years.

Grant procedure

Funds may become available annually from the Oregon Cultural Trust. The funds will be distributed annually or biennially to Benton County cultural

organizations on the basis of competitive proposals submitted. The Benton County Board of Commissioners will serve as the fiscal agent for these funds.

Over a five-year period the funds should be distributed equitably among the Arts, Heritage, and Humanities.

The Coalition will announce the availability of funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust and will call for letters of interest outlining the concept, nature, and objectives of each proposed project. These letters should be no more than three typewritten pages in length. After reviewing these letters the Coalition will invite complete proposals from those organizations whose project best supports the immediate goals of the Coalition. The Coalition will announce a deadline for receipt of these proposals. Funds will be granted within six weeks of the proposal deadline. Any 501(c)3 cultural organization is eligible to submit proposals for funding. Funds granted in any given year may be expended over as much as a three-year period depending on the nature of the project and as stated in the grant proposal. Organizations funded through the proposal/grant process will be expected to submit an annual report on how grant funds were expended.

Announcement of Fund Availability: The announcement of available funds will include the total amount, the dollar limit for each proposal, proposal deadline, date of distributions of funds, and proposal guidelines. Proposals must comply with Oregon Cultural Trust requirements and must be submitted on, or accompanied by, the Benton County Cultural Coalition grant application form. (See Appendix E.)

Proposal Guidelines: Guidelines for proposal include the following:

- (1) Only 501(c)3 cultural organizations are eligible to receive funds.
- (2) Proposals must include:
 - (a) A statement of goals and objectives
 - (b) The strategy for achieving the goals and objectives
 - (c) Benchmarks for assessing the progress toward and/or the achievement of the goals and objectives
 - (d) Budget

Appendices

Appendix A

Planning Committee Members

Appendix B

Charge to the Planning Committee

Appendix C

Planning Committee Activities

Appendix D

Cultural Coalition Members and Contact Information

Appendix E

Grant Application Form

Appendix F

Benton County Cultural Survey Questionnaire

Appendix A: Planning Committee Members

John Byrne (chair)

DeLynn Anderson

David Brauner

Zel Brook

Allison Davis-White Eyes

Orcilia Zuniga Forbes

Susan Johnson

Paula Krane

Catherine Levi

Sarah Miller Meigs

Micki Reaman

William Shumway

The committee was assisted by Benjamin Brewster, consultant for development of the web site and by Carol Mason, who served as staff for the committee. The committee thanks them for their significant contributions to the work of the planning committee.

Appendix B: Charge to the Planning Committee

The Benton County Commissioners charged the planning committee as follows:

- 1) define the structure of Benton County's Cultural Coalition, which will decide how grant funds are to be used county-wide, and recommend people to be members of the Coalition; and
- 2) create a Cultural Plan, which will include priorities for investment, strategies, and benchmarks for measuring achievements.

Intent:

- a. build bridges among the arts, heritage, humanities;
- b. recognize cultural groups that have been under served;
- c. include representation from arts, heritage, humanities;
- d. include representation of other groups relevant to cultural development;
- e. reflect Benton County's diversity.

The Five-Year Cultural Plan will:

- a. identify cultural resources;
- b. identify barriers to cultural expression and participation;
- c. describe Benton County's vision for cultural life;
- d. identify priorities for building public participation in culture;
- e. identify strategies for achieving the goals of the plan;
- f. create annual benchmarks for measuring the impact of coalition investment.

Appendix C: Planning Committee Activities

- met every two weeks from April to December, 2003 and weekly in January, 2004
- formed working groups for preliminary discussions and research, the results of which were presented to the committee
- designed and distributed an Assessment Questionnaire Survey through the public library, county museums, and local businesses, and at various cultural events, such as da Vinci Days and Fall Festival; forty-six of these questionnaires were returned, with many valuable suggestions and comments
- initiated and developed a list of 501(c)3 and other cultural organizations in Benton County
- held public meetings in Alpine, Corvallis, and Philomath to discuss Benton County's culture and to receive recommendations from county citizens
- held two public meetings in January in Corvallis and Philomath to present and evaluate the draft of the plan, and receive comments from the public
- developed a Five-Year Plan on the basis of the returned questionnaires and comments from the public meetings
- initiated a Benton County Cultural Coalition web site using the Benton County server (address will be added if available)

Appendix D: Cultural Coalition Members and Contact Information

Name and address	Phone	Email address	Area(s) of interest
Brook, Zel 825 NW 29 th Street Corvallis OR 97330	541-753-6241	art@zelbrook.com	visual arts (painting)
Burton, Kathy 1615 Mayview Drive NE Albany OR 97321	541-924-9566	klbkmb@comcast.net	interior design history
Dasch, May PO Box 1116 Philomath OR 97370	541-929-3315	none	history museum volunteer
Frankel, Walter 3331 Roosevelt Drive Corvallis OR 97330	541-753-6763	curtwalt@exchangenet.net	music
Jederlinich, Kathy 38994 Marys River Road Blodgett OR 97326	541-456-2211	thejeds@proaxis.com	visual art (sculpture)
Johnson, Susan 1265 NW Heather Drive Corvallis OR 97330	541-753-6968	wcjssj@comcast.net	visual arts (painting)
Krane, Paula 3363 NW Crest Drive Corvallis OR 97330	541-752-2361	kranep@peak.org	user of culture
Reaman, Micki 1310 NW Hillcrest Corvallis OR 97330	541-754-1551 (w)	mickream@earthlink.net	literature
Rounds, Mary 15215 Lobster Valley Road Alsea OR 97324	541-486-4371	mswing@peak.org	literature visual arts
Stewart, Marilyn 2846 SE Park Place Corvallis OR 97333	541-753-8673 (h) 541-737-3930 (w)	stewamar@onid.orst.edu	history, music
Tarter, Diane 110 NE Columbia Avenue Adair Village OR 97330	541-745-5480 (h)	tarterd@wou.edu 503-838-8387 (w)	theater, graphic design
Wallace, Rick PO Box 785 Corvallis OR 97339	541-753-7045	rwallace@proaxis.com	theater
Wisner, George 25124 Alpine Road Monroe OR 97456	541-424-3120	gwiz@peak.org	heritage

Appendix E: Grant Application Form

Purpose: To support and encourage an active cultural life throughout Benton County with high quality cultural experiences that are accessible to all people.

Eligible Organizations: Tax exempt organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code that have been invited to submit a grant proposal based on the Coalition's review of the organization's proposal letter (see section on grant procedures).

Geographic Emphasis: All areas of Benton County

Funding Priorities: Cultural activities are those involving arts, heritage, and humanities. These areas include, but are not limited to, the following examples: address cultural education in the schools; enhance the cultural network of cultural events, institutions, and individuals; increase the financial support of the major Benton County cultural institutions; document and use Benton County's history; strengthen the support of our cultural infrastructure (historic sites, rivers, railroads, parks, performance centers, museums).

Application Process: Completed grant applications *must* include the following, either on the application form or in attachments to it:

1. a description of the project in adequate detail so Cultural Coalition members understand the mission and/or activities of the organization and its grant request; the complete proposal should not exceed ten pages in length;
2. 501(c)3 documentation from the IRS or other information verifying the organization's tax-exempt status;
3. a list of the applying organization's directors and the principals responsible for the project;
4. detailed budget and funding information for the proposed project;
5. financial information concerning the applicant organization(s), such as an approved audit report.

Grant Application Form

Organization Name: _____

Organization Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Purpose of Request: A brief statement here. Provide a detailed statement of goals and objectives on a separate sheet(s).

Strategy or Work Plan: A brief statement here. Provide details on a separate sheet(s).

Benchmarks: On a separate sheet(s) provide both qualitative and quantitative benchmarks for assessing progress annually.

Budget: On a separate sheet include a detailed budget for the use of grant funds.

Appendix F: Benton County Cultural Survey Questionnaire

Benton County Cultural Survey (July 2003)

The Benton County Cultural Trust Planning Committee is part of the state of Oregon's Cultural Trust. We are collecting information about the current cultural activities in our county and your vision for the future in order to develop the Benton County Cultural Plan. This survey will give us an overview of the existing cultural resources that are being met, those that need to be expanded and those that need to be developed.

For our purposes CULTURE includes ARTS, HERITAGE, AND HUMANITIES. The Trust's long term goal is intended to create wide and enthusiastic participation in the cultural life of Oregon.

Please be as detailed or as brief as you want and feel free to use additional paper if needed. Include your name and address if you choose. Please note that any personal information given to us will be held in strictest confidence. Thank you. We value your input.

- 1) Are you aware of any arts, heritage, or humanities groups or activities that have been OMITTED from the attached draft list? Please add here with contact name and number.
- 2) Which cultural organizations or activities are inadequate at present in Benton County, and should be expanded or made more available?
- 3) What do you think the cultural life of Benton County should be like 20 years in the future? What organizations or activities should we be establishing now, so that they might be flourishing then?
- 4) Please check the appropriate responses. This will help us in our analysis of Benton County's culture.

1) I live in:

- an unincorporated area
- a settlement of fewer than 500 people
- a settlement between 500 and 20,000 people
- a settlement of more than 20,000 people

2) I am: ___ male ___ female

3) I am: ___ under 18; ___ between 18 and 35; ___ between 35 and 55; ___ over 55

Please send your completed survey to:

Benton County Cultural Plan
Benton County Commissioners Office
408 SW Monroe, Corvallis, OR 97333

Draft List of Benton County 501(c)3 and Other Cultural Organizations *

**Note: This working list of cultural events, groups, activities, historical sites, and venues was attached to the survey for use in answering question #1 on the survey.*

Abner Kravitz Quintet	Conservatory for Music Education
Advertising Autumn Leaves Studio	Consumers Power Charitable Trust
African Drumming/dance (Odd Fellows Hall)	Contra Dance
Amadan	Corvallis Public Schools
American Field Service	Corvallis Recorder Circle
American Business Women's Association	Corvallis Repertory Singers
American Association of University Women	Corvallis Senior Center Ballroom Dance
Arrieu Wind Quintet	Corvallis Junior Youth Symphony
Art Teachers	Corvallis Senior Center Sing-a-long
Art Group and Art Therapy	Corvallis Square Dance Club
ArtCentric Docents	Corvallis Squares
ArtCentric	Corvallis Youth Symphony
Artrageous Tours	Corvallis Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild
Audubon Society	Corvallis Public School Foundation
Avery Park	Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department
Bald Hill	Corvallis Visitors Bureau
Be Proactive!	Corvallis Community Theatre
Benton County Historical Society Museum	Corvallis Community Band
Benton County Fair	Corvallis Chordsmen Barbershop Chorus
Benton County Genealogical Society	Corvallis Belly Dance Guild
Benton Soil and Water District	Corvallis Parks and Recreation
Benton Foundation	Corvallis Art Guild
Benton Center Pottery Studio, LBCC	Corvallis Hour Exchange
Benton County Historical Society	Corvallis Art Center
Benton County Genealogical Society	Corvallis Academy of Ballet
Birkenstock Store displays	Corvallis Folklore Society
Blind Rhino (band)	Corvallis Preparatory Orchestra
CALYX	Corvallis Kiwanis Foundation
Celebrate Corvallis	Corvallis School of Ballet
Celebration of Bilingual Literacy	Corvallis OSU Symphony Society
Central Park	Corvallis Music Teachers Association
Central Valley Voices (Barbershop)	Corvallis Senior Center Creative Writing
Chamber Music Corvallis	Corvallis First Presbyterian Community Choir
Children's Book Writers	Corvallis Fall Festival
Chintimini Chamber Music Festival	Corvallis Farmers Market
City of Corvallis	Corvallis Senior Center China Painters
Clothesline Art Sale	Corvallis Benton County Public Library
Community Book Club	Corvallis Benton County Public Library Foundation
Community Museum in Monroe	Corvallis OSU Music Association
Community Alliance for Diversity	Corvallis OSU Symphony Society
Community Forum Series ("Can We Talk?")	Courthouse Preservation Committee
Company B	Cribbage Club

Crossroads International	Jackson Frazier Wetlands
da Vinci Days	Jewelry stores
Daughters of Cybele	Jubilate
DC-Aviation Museum	Kalanjali Corvallis Indian Arts Academy
Dia de los Ninos/ia de los Libros	Kip Smith Young Writers Award
Digger Mountain Studio	La Fiesta De Su Bibliotecca
Earthsongs	Lakefront Entertainment Center
Elementary Strings Program	LaSells Stewart Gallery
Eleven Eyes (band)	Linn Benton Arts Council
Endex Poetry Bulletin Board	Linn Benton Community College
English Language Institute, OSU	Lit City
Entomology Club	Live Poets Society
Environmental Science Club, OSU	Living Rock Studio (Brownsville)
Fairbanks Gallery (OSU)	Madison Avenue Task Force
Fall Festival	Magic Barrel (reading)
Fiechter House	Majestic Theatre Management
Fiesta de Nuestra Comunidad	Martial Arts
Figs and Thistle Baroque Ensemble	Marys River Quilt Guild
Fingerboard	Master Gardeners
Finley National Wildlife Refuge	Memorial Union Craft Center
Fort Hoskins Citizens Advisory Committee	Memorial Union Gallery
Fourth Sunday at Good Samaritan Church	Mid-Willamette Woodworkers Guild
Friends of the Library	Mid-Willamette Photo-Arts Guild
Fusion Ball (band)	Monad
Future Sunz (band)	Monroe Community Museum
G-Sector (band)	Monroe After School Art Programs
Gallery Gazelle	Movie theaters
Gaylord House	Multi-cultural Affairs Office, OSU
Get Lit	Multi-cultural Centers, OSU
Golden Light Gallery	Music For All
Goose Quill Guild	Native Plant Society
Gracewinds Music Store	Neal Gladstone and Company
Grassroots Reading Group	Nettles
Greenbelt Land Trust	NW Rock Garden Association
Heart of the Valley Smocking Guild	Opera Theatre Corvallis
Heart of the Valley Porcelain Artists	Oregon Folklife Heritage Foundation
Heart of the Valley Children's Choir	Oregon State Libraries
Hill City Bus (band)	Oregon State University
Hilltop Big Band	Oregon Folklife Festival
Historians	Oregon Music Teachers Assoc., Linn Benton
Historic Mural in Monroe	Organic Grower
Historic Resources Commission (Benton County)	OSU Dance Department
Historic Preservation Advisory Board (Corvallis)	OSU Press
Historic Resources Committee (Philomath)	OSU Heritage Foundation
Hoolyeh Folkdancers	OSU Foundation - Oregon Dance
Horner Museum	OSU Foundation - Art About Agriculture
Illustrated Garden Gallery	Peace Choir
Innovative Business Promotions	Pegasus Frame Studio and Gallery
Italian Festival	Philomath Frolic and Rodeo
	Poetry Enterprises Inc.
	Poodle de Ville and Mud Pie Trio

Pow-wow
Prism
Pro Musica String Orchestra
Quilt County
Reader's Theater
Red, White and Blues Festival
Regional School of Ballet
Renaissance Craft Fair
River Rhythms
Riverfront Park
Rotary
Saturday Market
Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair
Sierra Club
Sister City Association
Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation
South Benton Community Enhancement
South Benton Community Center
Southtown Hounds
Springboard Productions
Starker Arts Park
Start Making a Reader Today (SMART)
Storytelling Fest
Summit Summer Festival
Summit Star Quilters
Summit Talent Show
Tai Chi and Qugond
Tcha Tee Man Wi
The Critique Group
The O.K. Chorale
Thriving Theater
Truffle Society
University Theatre, OSU
Valley Library Gallery
Valley Tix
Valley Opera Guild
Very Special Arts for Disabilities
Vistas and Vineyards
Water Shed Council
Where Its @ Community Fair
Wild Rose Gallery
Willamette Literary Guild
Willamette Ceramics Guild
Willamette Park
Willamette Chamber Orchestra
Windmill Center
Wonderkeepers Story Tellers Guild
Yoga and Pilates School
Youth Poetry Contest and Adult Exhibit
Youth Dance Project
116 Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry