

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

DUE: OCTOBER 2, 2009

"Without culture and the relative freedom it implies, society even when perfect, is but a jungle. That is why any authentic creation is a gift to the future." **Albert Camus**

In 2008, the Benton County Cultural Coalition awarded Oregon Cultural Trust funds to eleven cultural organizations in Benton County. Grants ranged from \$500 to \$2000 for these groups. We are pleased to announce that income from the Oregon Cultural Trust will permit the Benton County Cultural Coalition to distribute approximately \$14,714 through this year's competitive grant process.

The benchmarks for the 2009/2010 round of grants are A) *Strengthen education in arts, humanities and heritage to reach the diverse population of Benton County;* B) *Strengthen infrastructure needed for culture and* C) *Strengthen financial support of existing cultural programs.* We look for projects that 1) have collaboration/partnership among cultural, community and humanitarian organization, 2) include rural as well as urban settings, 3) reach under-served populations and 4) are seeking other funding sources in addition to BCCC monies for the project. **Once again, grants will be made to registered 501(c)(3) organizations. Any collaborating partners may or may not be registered. Projects must be completed between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010.**

The grant process consists of two parts: a letter of intent, which may then be followed by an invitation for a full proposal. Letters of intent must be postmarked no later than October 2, 2009. Shortly thereafter, the Coalition will mail letters to those invited to make a full proposal. Full proposals will be due on November 20, 2009. It is expected that checks to awardees will be posted by mid-January 2010.

The letter of intent should be a single page, addressing the following as briefly as possible: What is your organization and its collaborator(s)? What do you want to do and when? Who will be involved in the creation of the project? Who is the audience? How much will the whole project cost? How much will you request from the Coalition? What other sources of funds will you seek for this project? Whom do we contact for more information? Submit by sending to BCCC, Grants Chair, P.O. Box 1504, Philomath, OR 97370 or by e-mail to: ambrose.shumway@comcast.net.

This year, the Benton County Cultural Coalition will offer a grant-writing workshop on October 26, 2009. The intent of the workshop is to teach grant-writing skills, and help you make a successful application for funding. We highly recommend that one or more people associated with your project attend this workshop.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ambrose.shumway@comcast.net. Our website, www.bentonculture.org, will give you information on our grant schedule, previous awards, coalition members, and Oregon Cultural Trust. For statewide competitive grants, regularly check the Cultural Trust site at www.culturaltrust.org/programs/grant_opportunities.php

**Susan Shumway
Vice-Chair, BCCC
Chair, Grants Committee**