



## Funding Strategy Memo

March 2026

### Purpose

Following our recent conversation, this memo outlines a targeted approach to advancing funding opportunities aligned with the [REDACTED]'s current priorities, with a focus on immediate and near-term needs identified during recent discussions.

The goal is to establish a clear, manageable framework for securing funding while positioning the organization for broader, long-term investment.

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### Organizational Positioning

The [REDACTED] is actively evolving beyond a traditional historical society model toward a more dynamic **regional heritage center**—one that integrates preservation, education, and community engagement across its campus and programs.

This evolution creates meaningful opportunities to align funding requests with:

- Expanded public access to collections
- Increased educational programming, particularly for youth
- Enhanced use of facilities as a community and cultural destination
- Broader regional relevance within Yamhill County and the surrounding area

Framing funding requests within this context strengthens competitiveness across a wider range of grant opportunities, including those focused on education, cultural tourism, and community development.

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### Priority Funding Areas

#### 1. Immediate Needs: Collections & Technology Infrastructure

**Focus:**

Addressing urgent operational needs related to collections preservation and data management

**Priority Projects:**

- Archival supplies and rehousing of collections (~\$25,000)
- Server installation and centralized data systems (~\$15,000)

**Funding Rationale:**

- Time-sensitive needs with direct impact on preservation and access
- Strong alignment with funders supporting collections care and institutional capacity
- Clearly defined scopes suitable for near-term grant submissions

**2. Near-Term Capacity Building****Focus:**

Strengthening staffing and operational capacity to support collections and programming

**Priority Project:**

- Development of a **full-time Collections Manager position** (~\$56,000–\$61,000)

**Funding Rationale:**

- Critical to sustaining collections work and improving access
- Strong fit for capacity-building and operational support grants
- Can be framed as phased or pilot-funded depending on the opportunity

**3. Program Development & Public Engagement****Focus:**

Expanding educational and community-facing programming

**Priority Projects:**

- Expansion of speaker series, including stipends and travel support (~\$3,000–\$5,000)
- Development of traveling “trunk” exhibit program
- CTE-focused day camps for middle and high school students

**Funding Rationale:**

- Supports community engagement and visibility
- Aligns with education, arts, and rural access funding priorities
- Offers opportunities for both grant funding and sponsorship

**4. Longer-Term Infrastructure (Future Positioning)****Focus:**

Planning and implementation of larger-scale collections and facility improvements

**Projects:**

- Collections storage infrastructure improvements
- Conservation lab development (partially funded)

**Funding Rationale:**

- Suitable for capital and larger-scale grants
- Requires additional planning and project definition before pursuit

## Priority Funding Opportunities

### Immediate / Near-Term Opportunities (Spring–Early Summer 2026)

Primary focus will be on advancing 1–2 opportunities for near-term submission based on readiness and alignment.

#### 1. Oregon Heritage – Oregon Heritage Grants

**Focus Areas:**

Collections, preservation, and museum capacity

**Relevant Projects:**

- Archival supplies and rehousing of collections
- Collections storage improvements
- Potential support for collections management systems

**Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$20,000

**Notes:**

Highly aligned with immediate collections needs. Competitive but well-matched to current priorities.

#### 2. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department – Museum Grant Program

**Focus Areas:**

Museum collections, preservation, and access

**Relevant Projects:**

- Archival supplies and rehousing of collections
- Collections storage improvements
- Collections cataloging and access enhancements

**Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$20,000

**Notes:**

Strong alignment with immediate collections needs. Annual program with a typical spring application cycle, making this a high-priority opportunity for near-term submission.

### 3. Autzen Foundation – Capital & Equipment Grants

**Focus Areas:**

Capital improvements, equipment, infrastructure

**Relevant Projects:**

- Server installation and technology upgrades
- Collections storage equipment

**Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$15,000

**Notes:**

Well-suited for discrete, tangible needs. Good match for technology-related requests.

### 4. National Endowment for the Humanities – Preservation Assistance Grants

**Focus Areas:**

Preservation of humanities collections

**Relevant Projects:**

- Archival supplies and rehousing
- Preservation planning and collections care

**Estimated Funding:**

Up to \$10,000

**Notes:**

Strong alignment with collections work. Requires advance planning but highly relevant.

## Next Tier: Flexible & Program Support

### 5. Oregon Community Foundation – Community Grants Program

**Focus Areas:**

Community engagement, education, and organizational capacity

**Relevant Projects:**

- Collections Manager position (partial support)
- CTE-focused youth programming
- General operating or program support

**Estimated Funding:**

\$10,000 – \$40,000

**Notes:**

Flexible funding source with strong regional relevance. Can support both staffing and programmatic work.

### 6. Roundhouse Foundation – Community & Cultural Grants

**Focus Areas:**

Rural communities, education, arts and culture, and community engagement

**Relevant Projects:**

- CTE-focused day camps for middle and high school students
- Expansion of public programming and community events
- Development of traveling “trunk” exhibit program

**Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$25,000

**Notes:**

Strong alignment with rural community priorities and youth engagement. Particularly well-suited for educational programming and initiatives that expand access to local history and cultural resources.

## 7. Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation – Grants Program

**Focus Areas:**

Arts, culture, education, and community-based programs

**Relevant Projects:**

- Expansion of speaker series (stipends and travel support)
- Youth education and enrichment programming
- Public access to collections and interpretive programming

**Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$20,000

**Notes:**

Well-suited for clearly defined, program-focused requests. Particularly strong fit for initiatives that combine education, cultural access, and community engagement.

## 8. Oregon Cultural Trust – Cultural Development Grants

**Focus Areas:**

Arts, heritage, and humanities programs that increase public access and cultural participation

**Relevant Projects:**

- Expansion of public programming and speaker series
- Development of traveling “trunk” exhibit program
- Youth education and engagement initiatives

**Estimated Funding:**

\$2,500 – \$10,000

**Notes:**

Strong fit for community-facing programs that expand access to cultural resources. Typically requires alignment with local cultural coalition priorities and may involve matching or leveraging other funding sources.

## 9. The Ford Family Foundation – Community Building Grants

### **Focus Areas:**

Rural communities, capacity, leadership, youth

### **Relevant Projects:**

- CTE-focused youth day camps
- Community engagement programming
- Potential staffing support

### **Estimated Funding:**

\$10,000 – \$30,000

### **Notes:**

Strong alignment with rural and youth-focused initiatives. May be a good fit for program development.

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## **Federal & Capacity-Building (Longer-Term Development)**

### 10. Institute of Museum and Library Services – Museums for America (including Small Grants Track)

### **Focus Areas:**

Collections stewardship, public access, education, and organizational capacity

### **Relevant Projects:**

- Collections management, preservation, and improved public access
- Development and expansion of educational programming
- Technology enhancements supporting collections and visitor engagement

### **Estimated Funding:**

\$25,000 – \$250,000

### **Notes:**

Comprehensive funding opportunity supporting a wide range of museum initiatives. Best suited for well-developed projects with clearly defined outcomes and partnerships, making this a strong candidate for future submission following initial project and program development.

## 11. Institute of Museum and Library Services – Museums Empowered: Professional Development Opportunities for Museum Staff

### **Focus Areas:**

Workforce development, professional training, and organizational capacity

### **Relevant Projects:**

- Professional development and training for collections management staff
- Skill-building in collections care, cataloging, and digital access systems
- Organizational capacity building to support long-term collections stewardship

### **Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$250,000

### **Notes:**

Strong fit for capacity-building initiatives tied to collections management and staff development. Particularly relevant as a complement to the proposed Collections Manager position, though requires advance planning and a longer development timeline.

## 12. Institute of Museum and Library Services – Inspire! Grants for Small Museums

### **Focus Areas:**

Innovation, community engagement, and improved public access to museum resources

### **Relevant Projects:**

- Development of traveling “trunk” exhibit program
- CTE-focused youth education and engagement initiatives
- Programs that expand access to collections and local history

### **Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$75,000

### **Notes:**

Strong fit for innovative, community-focused programming. Requires a well-defined project and planning timeline, making it better suited as a second-phase opportunity following initial program development.

### 13. National Endowment for the Humanities – Landmarks of American History and Culture

**Focus Areas:**

Public humanities education, place-based learning, and interpretation of historically significant sites

**Relevant Projects:**

- Development of place-based educational programming tied to local history
- Expansion of youth and educator-focused learning opportunities
- Interpretation and public engagement initiatives connected to regional heritage

**Estimated Funding:**

Varies (typically supports program development and participant costs)

**Notes:**

Supports immersive, place-based educational programs for educators and the public. Best suited for well-developed program concepts and partnerships, making this a strong candidate for future submission following initial program development.

### Specialized / Conditional Opportunities

#### 14. National Park Service – Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Grants

**Focus Areas:**

Repatriation, documentation, and consultation related to Native American cultural items and human remains

**Relevant Projects (Potential Alignment):**

- Inventory and documentation of Native American collections
- Consultation and collaboration with Tribal governments
- Repatriation planning and implementation activities

**Estimated Funding:**

\$5,000 – \$100,000+

**Notes:**

Highly specialized funding opportunity available only if the organization holds Native American cultural items subject to NAGPRA. Requires coordination with Tribal partners and adherence to federal guidelines. May be a strong fit if applicable to existing collections.

## 15. Meyer Memorial Trust – Community Grants

### Focus Areas:

Equity-centered initiatives, community engagement, and systems change

### Relevant Projects (Potential Alignment):

- Expansion of community-centered programming and public access initiatives
- Development of partnerships that broaden engagement with underserved or underrepresented communities
- Educational programming that increases inclusive access to local history and cultural resources

### Estimated Funding:

\$25,000+

### Notes:

May be a potential fit for future initiatives that emphasize equity, access, and community-driven programming. Would likely require additional development and alignment to meet current funding priorities.

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## Supplemental / Non-Core Opportunities

### 16. National Endowment for the Arts – Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program

#### Focus Areas:

Exhibition support through federal indemnification of high-value artworks and artifacts

#### Relevant Projects (Potential Alignment):

- Traveling or temporary exhibitions involving borrowed collections
- Partnerships with other institutions to host or exchange exhibits

#### Estimated Support:

Non-monetary (federal indemnification to reduce insurance costs)

#### Notes:

Specialized program that provides insurance coverage for high-value loans rather than direct funding. May be relevant for future exhibition partnerships but is not a primary funding source for current collections, staffing, or infrastructure needs.

## 17. Early American Industries Association – Annual Conference Scholarship

### **Focus Areas:**

Professional development, historical trades, and material culture education

### **Relevant Projects (Potential Alignment):**

- Training and professional development for collections or program staff
- Skill-building related to historical trades, tools, and material culture
- Informing development of educational programs or demonstrations

### **Estimated Funding:**

Varies (typically covers registration, travel, and/or lodging)

### **Notes:**

Limited-scope opportunity supporting staff development rather than direct program or operational funding. May be a useful supplement to strengthen expertise and inform future programming initiatives.

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## Recommended Next Steps

No immediate action is required. The following steps can be taken as timing allows:

- Review and refine priority funding areas
- Identify 1–2 opportunities to advance to submission
- Finalize project scopes and supporting materials
- Prepare and submit initial grant applications

Draft materials for initial opportunities are being developed and can be finalized quickly when appropriate.

## Grant Opportunities Snapshot (Priority Targets)

March 2026

The following snapshot highlights a prioritized subset of opportunities identified for near-term consideration based on alignment, readiness, and timing.

<b><u>Funder</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated Funding</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated Timeline</u></b>	<b><u>Priority Project</u></b>
Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept. (OPRD)	\$5,000 – \$20,000	May 2026	Archival supplies & collections rehousing
Oregon Heritage	\$5,000 – \$20,000	Spring 2026	Collections preservation & storage
Autzen Foundation	\$5,000 – \$15,000	Rolling	Server installation & technology upgrades
Oregon Community Foundation (OCF)	\$10,000 – \$40,000	Summer 2026	Collections Manager (partial) / program support
Roundhouse Foundation	\$5,000 – \$25,000	Fall 2026	CTE youth programs & public engagement

### Notes

1. The initial focus will be on advancing 1–2 submission opportunities based on alignment, readiness, and timeline.
2. Additional opportunities identified in the funding strategy memo may be pursued as project development progresses.