The theme of this year’s conference was **Resilience: Responding to Change**. Colin Fogarty, Executive Director of The Confluence Project, provided opening remarks. **The Confluence Project** is a community-supported nonprofit with the mission to connect people to an inclusive story of the Columbia River ecosystem, a story that begins with indigenous voices. He spoke about what inclusive history means for museums today.

This message resonated throughout the conference and was supplemented with breakout sessions on: Better Boards & Beyond, Interpretive Planning for Museums, Advocating for Equity, Planning and Implementing an Emergency Preparedness Plan, University Collections: Access and Lessons for the Rest of Us, Data-Driven Decision Making, Reimagining the Small Museum for the 21st Century: Fort Nisqually and Oregon Black Pioneers, Exhibiting Textiles, Engaging New Audiences, and A Small Town, About to Lose Their Museum.

Shannon Cockayne, Museum Assistant, and Vickie McCubbin, Museum Commission President, attended the conference in Hood River. While many may view our museum as quaint and somewhat provincial, we’re keeping an eye on trends among museums today including: developing creative spaces to engage younger people in the hopes of maintaining audiences into the future, the use of pop-up exhibitions to showcase exhibitions in different ways, while reaching new audiences and opening up dialogue about contemporary issues, and exploring social justice issues by creating a dialogue surrounding injustices occurring around the world. We’re excited about exploring these trends more!
Moratorium on Donations!

The following letter was prepared by the Museum Commission and will remain in place until the moratorium directive is rescinded.

August 8, 2018
City of Independence
Heritage Museum Commission
112 S 3rd St Independence, Oregon 97351

To: Peggy Smith,
Heritage Museum Curator

As part of the implementation of Goal 8 of the Heritage Museum Strategic Plan, established July 2018, cited below, the Museum Commission is directing that there be a temporary moratorium on receiving and accessioning any collections. This includes the accessioning of any materials that are currently located at the museum.

In addition to the moratorium, it is necessary that the current collection be evaluated based on a newly developed collections policy and that an evaluation committee be established prior to the continuance of any further collection or accessioning.

8a. Set a temporary moratorium on receiving/accessioning collections, pending creation and implementation of a collections policy.
8b. Evaluate the collections.
8c. Develop a collections policy based on the revised Museum mission, and suited to the situation and needs of IHM.
8d. Create a staff/volunteer committee to evaluate each potential donation in light of the collections policy, and decide whether or not to accession each item.

Vickie McCubbin
Chair, Heritage Commission Museum

Please direct all questions about the moratorium to Museum staff at orheritage@ci.independence.or.us or (503) 838-4989.
We’re busy inventorying the collection!

Back in the fall of 2017, we announced the arrival of an inventory module for our PastPerfect database software. Since then we’ve done two things:

(1) Museum Commissioners Vickie McCubbin and Amy Christensen exported a sample inventory from the database and then checked each of the items. What they found was troubling. 80% of the items were either not where the database said they were or, the item entry did not include a location for the item.

(2) We then looked at each and every accession record in PastPerfect and found that well over 90% of the records are missing vital information.

While this concerns us, we’re ready to remedy the situation. We’ve been visiting other museums and talking to a myriad of museum professionals to learn best practices from others in the field, and we’re ready to put that networking to work for us. Last week, Heritage Museum Society members cleared out our Kitchen Exhibit. We then used the inventory module to print barcode labels for each and every item. These labels have been affixed to tags and will be attached to each exhibit item. When stored, a second tag will sit on the shelf with the item. This way when the item is removed from storage, we’ll always know where to put it back! And of course, having items barcoded will allow us to do future inventories with a barcode scanner. #TechnologyWorksForUs

Barcode labels for Kitchen Exhibit items.

Check out this newsletter online [here](#) so you can access all the links!
A new visiting exhibit—Clink!

The Oregon Historical Society is loaning us their “Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine” exhibit. Opening night will be Monday, October 8th from 6-8 PM in the Independence Civic Center—lower level/river entrance. Croft Vineyards will be pouring tastes of their vintages and will have bottles available for sale as well.

This unique, engaging exhibition, will be on display, following the opening night reception, at Independence Civic Center, 555 S Main Street, 2nd floor lobby from October 9-19. The exhibit tells the stories of some of the individuals and institutions that propelled Oregon wine onto the national and international stage.

Clink! traces the history of Oregon wines from the earliest vineyards to legislative efforts to control alcohol during Prohibition to the resurgence of the wine industry in the 1960s and finally to what the future may bring for these thriving Oregon businesses.

The traveling exhibition features 12 colorful banners with photographs and text illustrating the history of the flourishing Oregon wine industry.

A Message from the Heritage Museum Society

With a new strategic plan in place, a revised museum mission statement, and an enthusiastic board and a revitalized Museum Commission, the Heritage Museum is preparing to enter a new phase of development that builds on its solid foundation but expands its vision and makes it possible to assume an even more important position in the community.

It is more important than ever to reach out to our faithful supporters and ask them to renew their memberships and to encourage others to join us as we work toward fulfilling immediate and long-term goals. We are keeping the membership fees affordable to enable as many people as possible to become members. The option of Life Membership has been deleted but those who want to help with future building plans or improvements may donate to a fund that will be maintained in a separate account.

Membership fees paid now will be valid through January 2020. From then on, annual memberships will be current based on the calendar year regardless of when they were paid. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support.

Lois Martin
President, Heritage Museum Society
**10 Reasons to Visit a Museum—what’s yours?**

*Know Your Bone* is a great museum-focused blog by Colleen Dillenschneider. Do you have a particular reason why you visit a museum? We’re working hard to improve the visitor experience here at the Heritage Museum and would love to have some input from our past visitors and from those people who’ve never visited. We want to know why!

What follows is excerpted from Colleen’s article, *10 Reasons to Visit a Museum.*

1. **Museums make you feel good** - Experiences, such as visiting a museum, can also become a meaningful part of ones identity and contribute to successful social relationships in a manner that material items cannot. So consider foregoing an outing for items that you may not need; going to the museum will make you happier in the long run.

2. **Museums make you smarter** - Schools rely heavily on museums to enhance their curriculum.

3. **Museums provide an effective way of learning** - A single visit to a museum can expose visitors to in-depth information on a subject, and the nature of the museum environment is one in which you can spend as much or as little time as you like exploring exhibits.

4. **Museums are community centers** - Museums are a lot more than collections of artifacts; they allow you to meet with neighbors, discuss thoughts and opinions, and become an active part of the community. **[HINT HINT - See Page 6, Museum Activity and volunteer!]**

5. **Museums inspire** - Museums provide inspiration through personal connections with visitors, and not only on-site and through physical community outreach efforts; some even manage to connect through their social networks.

6. **Museums help bring change and development to communities** - As museums are functioning more and more like community centers in providing access to current research and new ideas, they’ve become hot-spots for civic engagement.

7. **Museums are a great way to spend time with friends and family** - Personal connections can be made with museums and also with family members during visits.

8. **A museum may be your next community partner or business endeavor** - Museums need everything from printing services, to video surveillance, to dino-glue— and they are inextricably woven into the web of American government and businesses.

9. **Museums need your support in order to keep educating and inspiring people** - Many museums are nonprofit entities with missions to educate and inspire audiences – and that means that they need the support of visitors, members, and donors in order to keep on fulfilling those missions. **[NOTE: Ours is not but we do rely on a nonprofit for additional financial support.]**

10. **There is a museum close to you** - To find one near you, try the [Official Museum Directory](#).
Apart from the self-imposed temporary moratorium and the fact that we’re in the beginning stages of our first ever digital inventory, what else is going on at the museum?

The City of Independence is currently soliciting applications for a full-time Museum Manager. We’re excited about this commitment from the City and look forward to having someone on hand full-time to lead the museum.

We are actively recruiting people to fill a professional cadre of volunteers, interns, and docents (tour guides). We’re looking for people who can devote dedicated time each week to help us move the museum forward. If you or someone you know are interested, please have them contact us at orheritage@ci.independence.or.us or (503) 838-4989. Here are some prospective tasks:

1. Assist with digital inventory - requires database entry work and sorting through exhibited, boxed and shelved items. Some items may be more than 20lbs in weight.
2. Scan photos—requires database searches and saving or uploading digitized files. This is sedentary/computer work.
3. Index and organize reference library - requires reaching shelved books and moving them. Also requires computer work, specifically using MS Excel.
4. Organize supply area and label accordingly - involves working in a cramped space and sorting office supplies.
5. Conduct school tours - educators (bilingual desired but not required) are encouraged to help with this.
6. Assistance with programming - we need help scheduling and executing quarterly programming. Are you someone with a lot of ideas and the ability to follow through? Then this may be for you!

THIS COULD BE YOU!
Personal Impact of Museums

Here are a couple of great videos about the personal impact of museums. Do you have a story of your own? Please share it with us: orheritage@ci.independence.or.us. We’d love to hear from you! Click on the pictures below to play the videos. For those receiving this newsletter in hardcopy format, you can visit these links at your leisure when you’re next online:

1.  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3MWzJaRXXU&feature=youtu.be
Upcoming Events

Event: Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine Exhibit/Opening Night Reception
Day: Monday, October 8, 2018  Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Independence Civic Center, lower level/riverside

Become a Member to Support Your Museum

Membership fees and monetary donations go to the non-profit Heritage Museum Society. Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to, newsletters, special events notices, and 10% off purchases.

Return this section and make checks payable to:

Heritage Museum Society
P.O. Box 7
Independence, OR 97351

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _________________________________________________________________________________

City: _______________________________

State: _____ Zip: ________

Best contact phone number: _________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Allowing us to email notices reduces use of natural resources and mailing expenses. We respect your privacy and will not use your email for any other purpose.

Please circle the type of membership you would like:

Senior: $10.00  Individual: $25.00  Family: $50.00  Business: $50.00

Donations: As you know, we are a small non-profit organization. We couldn’t continue to operate without the generous contributions from our friends, members and volunteers. Please continue your support during the year with donations and purchases from our gift shop. Thanks to those of you who have contributed in the past. Remember, your donation is usually tax deductible and matching your donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust could yield a tax credit on your Oregon tax return. For more information visit www.culturaltrust.org/donate.