

# OREGON COUNTRY FAIR ENDOWMENT

## Guidelines

The Bill Wooten Oregon Country Fair (OCF) Endowment Fund is proud to support community-based non-profit programs in West Lane County.

OCF Endowment grants tangibly represent the fair's deep appreciation to our neighbors in the Fair's home community. The Oregon Country Fair Endowment reflects the spirit of the Fair by supporting projects in West Lane County that:

- promote the arts, education, and cultural diversity;
- work toward creating a peaceful, just, and environmentally sustainable society;
- build community through collaborative efforts.

The Endowment Fund is named in memory of Bill Wooten, the fair's visionary, community-minded co-founder.

### THE OREGON COUNTRY FAIR

The Oregon Country Fair (OCF) is an annual three-day festival offering the finest entertainment, hand-made crafts, delectable food and information sharing to be found anywhere. The Fair takes place each July in Veneta, Oregon, about 15 miles west of Eugene. We are in a wooded setting, but for three days of the year we are the one of the largest cities in Oregon with our own water and communication systems, security team, recycling service and much, much more.

Over the years, we have built a mutually cooperative relationship with our neighbors and enjoy a solid niche in the Veneta community. The intent of OCF is to create events and experiences that nourish the spirit, explore living artfully and authentically on earth, and transform culture in magical, joyous and healthy ways.

Started in 1969 as a benefit for an alternative school, the OCF has a rich and varied history of alternative arts and performance promotion, educational opportunities, land stewardship and philanthropy. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable and educational organization with six full and part-time, year-round employees and a family of thousands of volunteers, crafters, and entertainers.

OCF has a twelve-member Board of Directors that sets policy and provides direction to the staff, both paid and volunteer. We own the land on which the Fair is held and pride ourselves on being a primarily volunteer organization where people donate their skills to make our event the fantastic and magical experience it is.

### OCF ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Grant Making Criteria

The purpose of the OCF Endowment is to contribute to the educational and cultural resources of Western Lane County, with an emphasis on youth-oriented programs in the Country Fair's home community of Fern Ridge. Our intent is to promote the arts represented at the Fair, including crafts and performing arts. We also support grant projects that reflect the Fair's environmental stewardship and commitment to creating a peaceful, harmonious community. Our criteria is below:

- Grants requests can be for amounts up to \$2,500.
- We are unable to consider more than one application from an organization.
- The Endowment's grant making is dedicated solely to non-profit groups working in the Fern Ridge area and projects must be directed toward people in this region. We use Lane County Fire District No. 1 boundaries to define the geographic region served; that 200 square mile area includes the communities of Veneta, Elmira, Noti, Walton and Crow. We prioritize proposals originating within the Fern Ridge area, implemented by local organizations and serving people living there. Organizations from outside this region will be considered if they have a strong Fern Ridge focus and demonstrated connections with the local community; for example, a local organization can sponsor a project to be carried out by a group or personnel from outside the area. And, local organizations should clearly direct project activities to serve people living in West Lane County; e.g. a Fern Ridge community arts program would ask for funding to serve local children, even if they also include kids from Eugene-Springfield.
- Applicant projects center on art, environmental or peace and social justice focus, of some combination of these foci. Many funded projects combine art with a focus on the environment, or peace and social justice.
- Applicant organizations must have a tax-exempt, non-profit status from the IRS, or be sponsored by a tax-exempt non-profit organization.
- Projects that present opportunities to enhance OCF's relationship with the West Lane County community are encouraged. To this end, grant awards will reflect the presence of a community presentation in applicants' projects.
- **Special consideration will be given to collaborative projects.** By collaboration, we mean projects that:
  1. are jointly proposed by two or more community organizations, or
  2. promote participation in a community-wide project. For example, OCF Endowment Fund grant cycles have supported projects by several schools that provided art installations for the same community resource (e.g. the Fern Ridge Library).
- The Endowment Fund *will not fund* projects submitted by individuals or for general operating expenses, films, videos or books.

**OCF ENDOWMENT FUND**  
**Grant Application Procedure**

To submit a proposal for an OCF Endowment Fund grant, please send your application letter **VIA E-MAIL ONLY** to [endowment@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:endowment@oregoncountryfair.org). Your application must include the following:

- Name of the organization, mailing address, phone number and, if possible, email.
- Contact name, mailing address, phone number and email.
- Brief descriptions of your organization, e.g. its purpose, number of people served.
- Brief description of the project you want us to fund. Please describe intended project results and explain how your project reflects the OCF Endowment's criteria.
- Qualifications of lead project personnel.
- Project budget, including other sources of funding.
- Please also include *ONE* copy of your IRS letter of determination that includes your employee identification number. You can e-mail scanned copy to [endowment@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:endowment@oregoncountryfair.org).
- Additional supporting materials may be attached.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Your application letter must be received by the third Friday in January.

**Final grant decisions will be made by made by mid-February.** Successful applicants will receive an award letter and grant agreement to be signed and returned to the OCF office. No funds can be distributed until this signed document is received at the OCF office. We request that all grant recipients funds host a community presentation of the project results, and encourage grantees to collaborate in sponsoring these events.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL GRANTEES WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT PHOTOS BY MAY 15.** If your grant project has not been completed by that date, photos depicting your general organization will work. These photos will be used to publicize the endowment at the Fair's Galleria Philanthropia, which supports continuation of grantmaking to groups like your own. Photos should be emailed to [lreymers@yahoo.com](mailto:lreymers@yahoo.com).

#### **OCF Endowment Committee Members**

- Merrill Levine, [merrillgl@yahoo.com](mailto:merrillgl@yahoo.com)
- Linda Reymers, Co-Chair, [lreymers@yahoo.com](mailto:lreymers@yahoo.com)
- Norma Sax, 343-4298, [office@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:office@oregoncountryfair.org)
- Laurie Doscher, [ldoscher@earthlink.net](mailto:ldoscher@earthlink.net)
- Sue Theolass, [theolass@efn.org](mailto:theolass@efn.org)

Please direct OCF Endowment grant questions via email to Linda Reymers.  
Forms, guidelines and general information can be obtained from the Oregon Country Fair office.

**Please submit proposals to: [endowment@oregoncountryfair.org](mailto:endowment@oregoncountryfair.org).**

*Thank you for your interest in the Oregon Country Fair Endowment Grant Program.*