



Bill Wooten OCF Endowment Fund 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 our deep appreciation to our neighbors in the Fair's home community. The Endowment Fund memorializes Bill Wooten, the fair's visionary, community-minded co-founder, and supports projects that reflect the spirit of the Fair.

OCF ENDOWMENT FUND | Funding Criteria

The purpose of the OCF Endowment is to contribute to the educational and cultural resources of Western Lane County by supporting youth-focused programs in the Fair's home community of Fern Ridge. Funded projects reflect the Fair's commitment to the arts. We support projects that:

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

Please make sure your grant application reflects the following:

- The maximum grant amount is \$4,000.
- All projects must begin after March 1st.
- 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 youth in this region*. We prioritize proposals that originate within the Fern Ridge area and are implemented by local organizations.
 - Fern Ridge organizations should clearly direct project activities toward serving youth living in West Lane County, even if kids from other areas participate.
 - 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.
 - Projects must take place in West Lane County (taking students to a Eugene event would not be funded).
 - Organizations from outside this region will be considered *if* they have a strong Fern Ridge focus with demonstrated connections to the local community, i.e. an organization based outside of the Fern Ridge area can sponsor a project to be carried out with an organization located in West Lane County – if this is the case, *please name the local organization and detail how you are working together, describing the respective roles of both the outside group and the Fern Ridge organization*.
- Applicant projects should have an art, environmental, or peace and social justice focus, or some combination. Projects should directly engage youth in activities.

- 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:
 - are jointly proposed by two or more community organizations, or
 - 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 Fern Ridge Skate Park).
- The Endowment Fund will not fund projects submitted by individuals or for general operating expenses, films, videos or books.

OCF ENDOWMENT FUND | How to Apply

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

- Name of the organization, mailing address, phone number, and email.
- A clearly identified contact person with 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. Include the intended project results and explain how your project reflects the OCF Endowment Fund's criteria. *Make sure and include the number of youths you anticipate will benefit from your project.*
- Qualifications of lead project personnel.
- Project budget (expenses and income), including other sources of funding. Please let us know how your project will proceed if you do not receive full funding.
- If you have not received funding from the OCF Endowment Fund before, please attach a copy of your IRS letter of determination.
- Additional supporting materials may be attached.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Your emailed application letter must be received by Friday, **January 16, 2026**.

Final grant decisions will be by made by March 15. Successful applicants will receive an award letter and grant agreement. No funds can be distributed until this signed document is received at the OCF office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT **ALL GRANTEEES WILL NEED TO SUBMIT PHOTOS** OF THEIR GRANT PROJECT AS PART OF THEIR GRANT REPORT. These photos will be used to publicize the endowment at the Galleria Philanthropia during the Fair's July event. The Galleria's presence at the Fair supports continuation of grant making to groups like your own. Photos should be emailed to lreymers@yahoo.com. **Future funding is dependent on our receipt of grant reports with photos.**

QUESTIONS? Please direct OCF Endowment grant questions via email to the chair, Linda Reymers, at lreymers@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your interest in the Bill Wooten Oregon Country Fair Endowment Fund



ABOUT 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 community-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 a year-round staff and a family of thousands of volunteers, crafters, and entertainers.