



**MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL  
AND CULTURAL  
HISTORY**

# DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

## 2025 Impact Report



## Greetings friends,

This year marked a period of momentum and purpose for the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Our galleries, collections, and field projects continued to serve as living laboratories for UO students, who worked alongside museum staff in research, curation, public programming, and community partnerships. We expanded outreach across Oregon, strengthening connections with K-12 educators, Tribal partners, and the broader public, while advancing groundbreaking research on human history, biodiversity, and environmental change. A major milestone was the relocation of our Archaeological Research Division, providing improved facilities to support their many projects from around our state, collaborative research, and student training.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on stewarding our collections, investing in students, and using deep history to inform a more sustainable and inclusive future.

### Todd Braje

Executive Director

**31,000+**

people visited the  
museum in 2025

**9,500+**

UO students served

**9,700**

volunteer hours  
logged

67

student employees,  
8 as graduate students

58

student  
volunteers

7,000+

UO students served  
at the museum

2,500+

UO students served  
in courses outside  
the museum walls

141

course visits to the  
museum from 34  
departments

# UO STUDENTS

are at the heart of what we do.

Every day at the museum, UO students take their learning beyond the classroom. Whether attending a class or field school, joining the student club, working on staff, or giving a poster presentation, the museum offers community, belonging, and education outside the walls of the classroom.

850

UO students  
participated  
in student  
club events

20

MNCH student  
club members

In 2025, the museum hosted **Hostile Terrain 94**, a participatory exhibit composed of more than 4,000 handwritten toe tags, each representing someone who lost their life trying to cross the Sonoran Desert of Arizona between the mid-1990s and 2024. More than **1,200 students in 36 classes** engaged with the exhibit, with more than 900 students filling out toe tags. Students were instrumental in the exhibit from beginning to end, from development to installation and staffing the exhibit.





# UO STUDENTS

**flourish in the field.**

From class visits to the museum, to work in the collections, to field schools in Oregon and California, fieldwork is a transformative experience for students, preparing them for careers in archaeology, anthropology, and beyond.



# COMMUNITY

is built at the museum.

The museum is a place for creating connections—to each other, to our past, and to our future. It's where we discover what brings us together and where we are challenged to grow.

**771**

active members

**29%**

growth in  
Access Membership

## Reviews from Teachers:

*"The students really liked the hands-on part in the classroom where they could look at the artifacts."*

*—Teacher from Oak Grove Elementary in Albany*

*"Staff and volunteers were absolutely phenomenal with the teens. The exhibit is a perfect end of the term activity for the topics of the class!"*

*—Teacher from South Eugene High School*

**127**

museum volunteers

**4,500+**

visitors using free/  
reduced admission

**4,500+**

K-12 students and  
teachers

## LEGO LEAGUE ROBOTICS

Museum staff helped more than 20 robotics teams plan their Innovation Project for the First Lego League Robotics Competition. At least 6 of the teams we helped went to the state competition!



Museum archaeologist Marlene Jampolsky with the I-Robot robotics team from Portland, Oregon.

# STATEWIDE

impact across Oregon.

We are Oregon's museum, serving communities in every corner of the state. From archaeological projects to traveling library programs to networks of culture keepers, the museum reaches far beyond our four walls.

**3,500+**

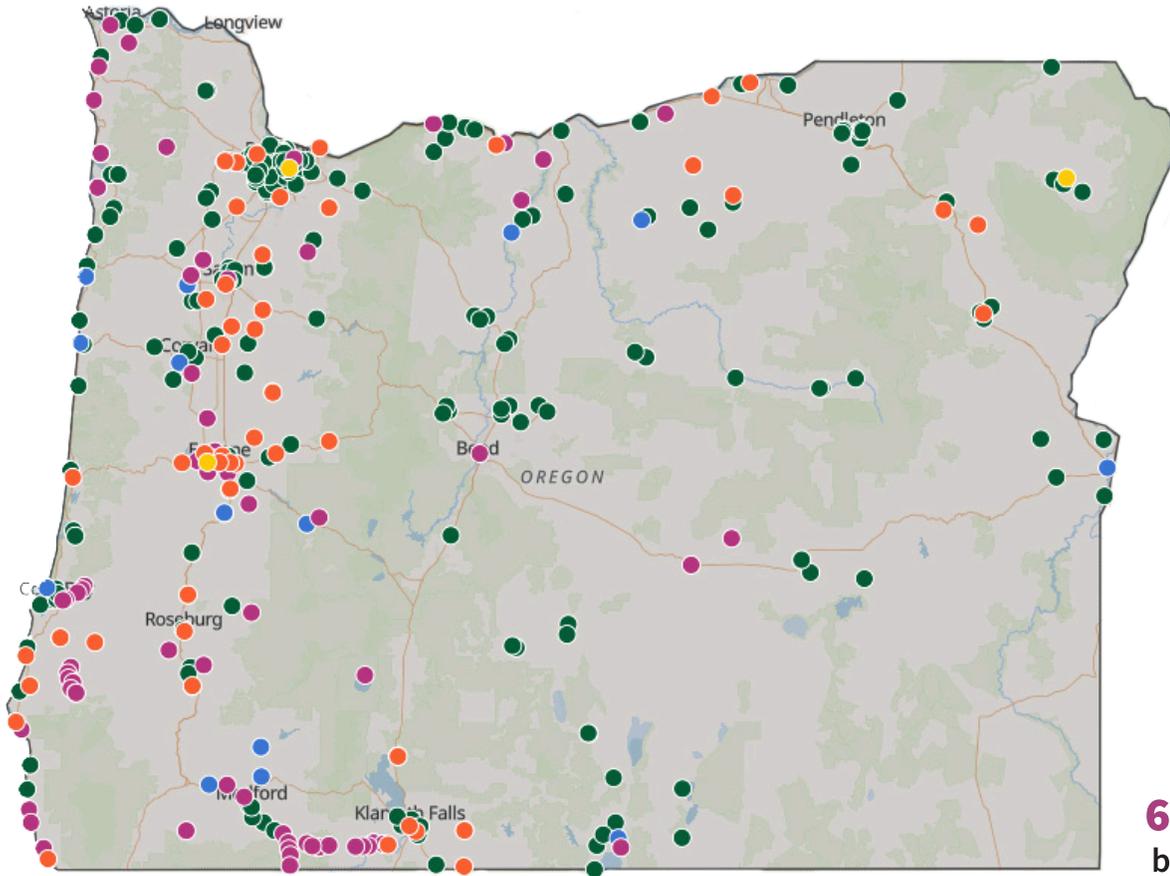
youth and family members visited  
Power Play for the Planet in 112  
communities across the state

**36**

Oregon counties represented  
on the Oregon Culture  
Keepers Roster



In 2025, the Oregon Folklife Network hosted their second annual **Culture Keeper Gathering**. Bringing together culture bearers from across Oregon, the Gathering fosters relationships and collaboration across cultures and artforms. It is the only event of its kind in the nation.



**3 finalists**  
for the museum's  
annual Oregon  
Stewardship Award

**27 communities**  
hosted Museum  
Adventures traveling  
exhibits

**112 libraries**  
hosted summer  
family programs

**280+ artists**  
on the Oregon  
Culture Keeper Roster

**662 acres surveyed**  
by museum archaeologists

*Museum scientists, educators, and activities visited communities far and wide across Oregon in 2025.*

# ILLUMINATING

## the world around us.

Museum exhibits, collections, and research shape our understanding of the world, from our recent past to millions of years ago.

**23**

publications by museum  
researchers in 2025

**1,188**

fossils curated in 2025  
from North America,  
South America, and Africa



### DID YOU KNOW?

The museum serves as a repository for Oregon and the surrounding areas' rock art archives, documenting the photographic legacy of these sites. Volunteers in anthropology collections spent 2025 scanning, cataloguing, and organizing the Rock Art Research Archives.

# EXHIBITS on view in 2025



## *Transgressors*



## **ROOTS AND RESILIENCE** Chinese American Heritage in Oregon



## **OREGON STORIES:** ENID LEFTON AND SHAYNA MELTZER



## **Underwater Forests** Oregon's Kelp Ecosystems



## **GREG ROBINSON:** INSEPARABLE



## **YORUBA CROWNS**



## **OREGON STORIES:** SCOTT FISHER AND KENYA MÁRQUEZ



## **HOSTILE TERRAIN 94**



## **CAPTURING THE COSMOS** Images from the James Webb Space Telescope



## **GEOPHOTOGRAPHY** PHOTOS BY THE UO GEOLOGY CLUB



## **OREGON—** **WHERE PAST IS PRESENT**

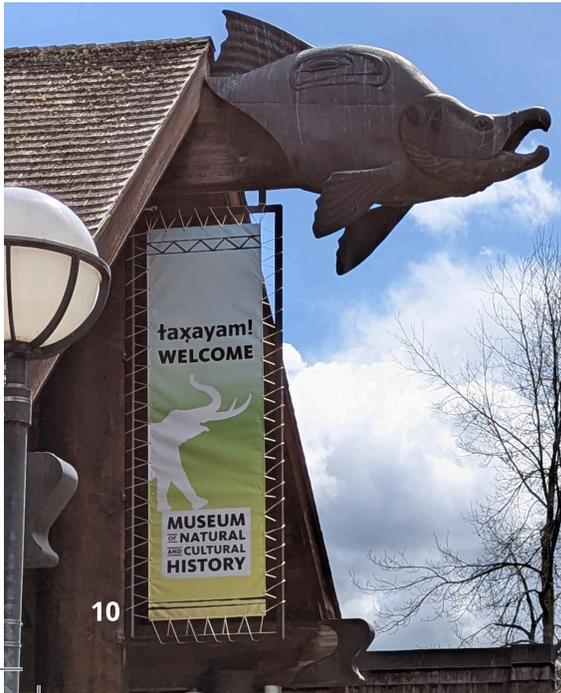


## **EXPLORE OREGON**

# SHARING STEWARDSHIP

of our collective past, present, and future.

How can we elevate and communicate the deep interconnections between nature and culture? How can we care for collections in ways that honor descendant communities? How can we tell more inclusive stories and create opportunities for connection, learning, and civic action? We don't have all the answers, but we strive to ask the questions every day.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025:

- Updated the museum sign with Chinuk Wawa for Welcome.
- Updated our policies reflecting principles of Standards for Museums with Native American Collections.
- *Transgressors* exhibit showcased Indigiqueer stories past and present.
- Hosted events in collaboration with UO's Native American Student Union and the Many Nations Longhouse.
- Our *Native Innovation* traveling exhibit features Indigenous engineering solutions from the past, present, and future.

**Look for more to come in 2026!**

*Sara Barton, a traditional basket maker, shares stories about a cradleboard she made at the 2025 Culture Keeper Gathering.*





UNIVERSITY OF  
**OREGON**

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# LOOKING FORWARD

## What to expect in 2026

- A closer look at collections
- More opportunities for family fun
- Educational programs in 100+ libraries across the state
- A new exhibit about Oregon's bees
- And much, much more!

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Eugene OR  
Permit No. 63



*Andrew Boehm helps  
move the museum's  
archaeological research  
division into Agate Hall.*