

# Oregon Cultural Trust

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2005

Contact: Christine D'Arcy, (503) 986-0087, [christine.t.darcy@state.or.us](mailto:christine.t.darcy@state.or.us)  
Christopher Zinn, (503) 241-0543, [czinn@oregonhum.org](mailto:czinn@oregonhum.org)

## Cultural Partners Unite to Reinstate Poet Laureate in Oregon *Nominations for Poet Laureate Due November 28, 2005*

Oregon's Cultural Partners, involved in the heritage, the humanities, and the arts, and Governor Ted Kulongoski have joined forces to reinstate Oregon's Poet Laureate. The Cultural Partners believe that restoring this position and appointing a poet laureate will provide a bold and articulate voice for culture across the state while contributing thoughtful eloquence to our public life. Nominations for the Poet Laureate of Oregon will be accepted until November 28, 2005.

Oregon's Cultural Partners, the Oregon Arts Commission, the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon Council for the Humanities, and the State Historic Preservation Office, are the statewide cultural agencies offering leadership, programming, and services across the state. Each Cultural Partner receives funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. In addition, a portion of Cultural Trust grant funds is reserved for a project the partners undertake collaboratively, and part of these shared funds will be used to reinstate Oregon's Poet Laureate and support his or her service as an active and energetic ambassador for the cultural life of Oregon.

The role of Poet Laureate is to foster the art of poetry, encourage literacy and learning, address central issues relating to the humanities and heritage, and reflect appropriately on public life in Oregon. The Poet Laureate will provide a minimum of six public readings in settings across the state and educate community, business, and state leaders about the value and importance of poetry and creative expression. Additionally, the Poet Laureate will undertake a significant cultural project or projects throughout his or her term. One goal of the project must be to bring the poetic arts to people or to a region of the state that might otherwise have little opportunity to study and enjoy poetry.

Nominations for the Poet Laureate are sought from qualified people, including other poets and writers, as well as educational and cultural leaders. Self-nominations are discouraged. Nominations will be accepted until November 28, 2005, and the requirements for nomination are available on the Cultural Trust website, [www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org)

Oregon's Cultural Partners have assembled a selection committee, chaired by First Lady Mary Oberst, to review and rank the nominations. Their recommendations will be forwarded to the Governor for review. After being appointed by the Governor, the Poet Laureate would serve for a term of two years (renewable after the first year) beginning in January 2006.

For more information, contact the Cultural Trust, [cultural.trust@state.or.us](mailto:cultural.trust@state.or.us) or call (503) 986-0087.

# # # #

**About the Oregon Cultural Trust**

The Cultural Trust is a statewide program designed to raise significant new funds to invest into Oregon's arts, humanities and heritage. In addition to the creation of a long-term, protected endowment, funds are distributed annually through competitive grants to cultural organizations, grants to cultural coalitions in Oregon counties and within federally recognized tribes, and grants to statewide cultural agencies. Oregonians who contribute to the Cultural Trust are eligible for an innovative tax credit.

Donors to the Cultural Trust are eligible for a 100% tax credit for contributions of up to \$500 for individuals (\$1,000 for couples filing jointly) and \$2,500 for corporations. Because one of the Cultural Trust's goals is to motivate Oregonians to increase direct giving to cultural groups, in order to qualify for the credit, a donor must have also made matching gifts to one or more cultural nonprofits in Oregon during the same tax year.

For additional information or to donate online, visit [www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org).