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For Immediate Release:

Grants Available to Washington County Arts, Heritage and Humanities Organizations

The Washington County Arts, Heritage and Humanities Coalition (WCAHHC) is pleased to offer Community Cultural Participation Grants to Washington County non-profit cultural organizations for 2006-07. Grants in amounts of \$1000 or \$2000 will be offered. Grants will be awarded for successful grant applications that increase public awareness and participation, cultural learning, support existing cultural organizations, or integrate cultural development with economic development policies in Washington County.

Interested organizations are encouraged to attend one of two grant orientation sessions to be held Monday, February 27th. The first will be at 9:00 am, at the Oregon College of Art and Craft, Administrative Conference Room, 8245 SW Barnes Road, Portland, and the second will begin at noon, at the Beaverton Community Center, Sycamore Room, 12350 SW 5th, Beaverton, OR.

The application period will open Monday, February 27th and close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7, 2006. Detailed grant guidelines outlining eligibility and grant requirements, and the simple, online applications will be available beginning Monday, February 27, 2006. They can be accessed from a variety of websites including the Regional Arts and Culture Council (www.racc.org), the Washington County Cooperative Library Services (www.WILInet.wccls.lib.or.us), and the Westside Cultural Alliance (www.westsideculturalalliance.org).

Applicants who do not have personal access to the Internet may complete the online application using public computers at any local public library.

Funds will be awarded in May and must be used to fund activities or projects between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. To be eligible for a Community Cultural Participation Grant, applicants must be a not-for-profit arts, heritage or humanities organization, address the priorities outlined in the grant guidelines, and be an organization headquartered in Washington County serving Washington County residents.

Funding for the grant program comes from the Oregon Cultural Trust. The WCAHHC was appointed in February 2005 by the Washington County Board of Commissioners to administer grant funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust and to address the priorities of the Washington County Cultural Plan. The Regional Arts and Culture Council is assisting the WCAHHC by facilitating the grants process. In 2005, WCAHHC distributed \$15,000 in grants to community cultural organizations.

For more information about the Community Cultural Participation Grants program, contact the Grants Program Office of the Regional Arts and Culture Council (503)823-5408.

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