**DATE**: November 22, 2016

**CONTACT**: Riki Saltzman

**Oregon Folklife Network wants folk artists in Portland Metro!**

**More Than $82 Million Awarded for Arts Projects Nationwide**

***Includes $55,000 awarded to the Oregon Folklife Network***

*[Eugene, Oregon]*—National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than $82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA’s second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. Included in this announcement is an Art Works award of $55,000 to the Oregon Folklife Network to document the diverse cultural traditions of the Portland Metro counties of Washington, Multnomah, Yamhill, Columbia, and Clackamas.

The Art Works category supports the creation of work and presentation of both new and existing work, lifelong learning in the arts, and public engagement with the arts through 13 arts disciplines or fields.

“The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Supporting projects like the one from the Oregon Folklife Network offers more opportunities to engage in the arts every day.”

As Oregon’s Folk & Traditional Arts Program, the OFN wants to find excellent folk artists and culture keepers. We are looking for master artists to serve as mentors for the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. OFN will include the best of those documented in our Roster, an online curated resource for local festivals, parks, school, and library programs looking for performers, demonstrators, and speakers.

OFN Folklorists Douglas Manger, Nancy Nusz, and Makaela Kroin will be in the Portland Metro during November 2016 to identify and document culture keepers. Biographies for each folklorist are at the end of this release.

OFN will be working with a range of cultural partners such as World Pulse, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (especially IRCO’s Asian Family Center and Africa House), Lan Su Chinese Gardens, Milagro Theatre, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, and our operational partners (Oregon Historical Society, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Cultural Trust). We’ll be creating public programs and working with 10 community scholars from diverse communities to provide training in self-documentation.

We are eager for contact information for traditional musicians, dancers, quilters, embroiderers, storytellers, fly-tiers, cooks, artisans, and more from the Portland Metro’s residents. We very much want to hear from the range of Portland’s communities: Native American, African American, European (English, German, Greek, Irish, Jewish, Norwegian, Scottish), Africans (from Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Liberia, Chad, Togo), Asian and Pacific Islander (Burmese, Chinese, Filipino, Hawai’ian, Japanese, Korean, Khmer, Lao, Hmong, Mien, Thai, Vietnamese), Latino (Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Columbia), and Middle Eastern (Iraqi, Israeli, Lebanese, Palestinian, Persian, Turkish).

“We are thrilled to have this support to continue our documentation of Oregon’s living cultural heritage. Since 2014, OFN’s statewide survey has documented over 100 folk and traditional artists in 18 counties in Eastern Oregon, along the Columbia River Gorge, and Southern Oregon as well as at the Klamath Tribes, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, and the Burns Paiute Tribe. Many of those culture keepers have performed in Oregon parks, taken part in festivals, conducted public workshops, and been featured in exhibits,” OFN’s Executive Director, Riki Saltzman, commented.

OFN preserves fieldwork documentation in the UO Folklife archives for research and education. We partner with local and state organizations to refer tradition bearers and folk artists for programs in parks, arts organizations, libraries, or festivals.

Project folklorists conducting this survey:

Nancy Nusz (MA, Western Kentucky University) began her folklore career at the Bureau of Florida Folklife, serving as Folk Arts in Education coordinator & conducting fieldwork (maritime, ethnic urban communities, agriculture, circus). In 1991, she came to the Oregon Folk Arts Program (Oregon Folklife Program), first as coordinator & then director, conducting fieldwork & programming, curating exhibits, & developing curriculum. Nancy has worked for UNESCO in Paris and most recently collaborated with OFN in 2015 to conduct a folklife survey of Oregon’s Columbia River Gorge region. She is very excited to be meeting with old friends and interviewing new ones in the Portland Metro for 2016. Nancynusz@gmail.com

Douglas Manger has been working as a folklorist for twenty years. He has collaborated with the Oregon Folklife Network for several years of our multi-year folklife surveys, first in South Eastern Oregon (Malheur and Harney counties) in 2014; the High Desert counties (Deschutes, Crook, Baker, and Union counties) in spring of 2016; and now the Portland Metro counties for fall of 2016. Manger has served as director of the Northern Tier Cultural Alliance in Pennsylvania and as the manager of the folk and traditional arts program at the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in Baltimore (overseeing initiatives across nine states and jurisdictions). At Mid Atlantic, Manger managed the award-winning publication, From Bridge to Boardwalk: An Audio Journey Across Maryland’s Eastern Shore. In 2007, Manger returned to his home state of Texas and founded HeritageWorks, which has been responsible for multi-year regional folklife field surveys in South and East Texas for the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, in Baton Rouge and vicinity for the Louisiana Folklife Program. Douglas@heritageworks.net

Makaela Kroin, OFN’s Program Coordinator, will join Nancy Nusz and Douglas Manger to document the diverse cultural traditions found in the Portland Metro. Kroin, who has a Bachelor’s Degree in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies from Smith College, a Master’s Degree in Information and Communication Science from Ball State University, and a Master’s Degree in Public Folklore from the University of Oregon. Kroin served as OFN’s Summer Folklore Fellow, co-coordinated OFN’s collaborative Folklife Fieldschool (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs K-8 Academy and the Culture & Heritage Archives), and conducted videographic documentation of several master artists. Kroin produced an exhibit for the OFN and a documentary highlighting the history and revitalization of hop growing in Oregon. That exhibit is now on permanent display at the Independence Heritage Museum, where it was featured for the 2016 Independence Hops & Heritage Festival. Besides working on the folklife survey, Kroin will continue to document OFN’s master artists for the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. makaelak@uoregon.edu

To provide OFN with contact information for these traditions, please contact Riki Saltzman, riki@uoregon.edu , or Emily West Afanador, eafanado@uoregon.edu, or phone 541-346-3820.

To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use **#NEASpring2016 and #Oregonfolk.** For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to arts.gov. **Follow OFN on Twitter @OregonFolklife and follow us on Facebook at Oregon Folklife Network.**

*The Oregon Folklife Network makes a meaningful difference in Oregon communities and Tribes by documenting, supporting, and celebrating our diverse cultural traditions and by empowering our tradition-bearers. The OFN conducts folklife fieldwork and sponsors statewide activities to increase public awareness of the significance of living cultural heritage.*

The OFN is administered by the University of Oregon and is supported in part by grants from the Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Historical Society, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**About the University of Oregon**

The University of Oregon is among the 108 institutions chosen from 4,633 U.S. universities for top-tier designation of "Very High Research Activity" in the 2010 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The UO also is one of two Pacific Northwest members of the Association of American Universities.

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| **SOURCE:** Riki Saltzman, riki@uoregon.edu or Emily West Hartlerode, eafanado@uoregon.edu, or phone 541-346-3820 **Note:** The University of Oregon is equipped with an on-campus television studio with a point-of-origin Vyvx connection, which provides broadcast-quality video to networks worldwide via fiber optic network. In addition, there is video access to satellite uplink, and audio access to an ISDN codec for broadcast-quality radio interviews. |
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