Message from the Chair

Every October, The Oregon State Capitol Foundation works in a daylong retreat, evaluating where we have been, what we are working on now, and where we will go. This year has been really busy!

Thanks to Foundation members, to other donors, to all the Oregonians who buy Pacific Wonderland vehicle plates, and to the legislators who passed that law, we have a big list, for past, current and future.

Past projects have included The Medal of Honor Memorial (2004), The Walk of Flags (2005), the granite benches in the Capitol Rotunda (2008-09), portraits of Governor Kitzhaber and Governor Kulongoski, and most recently, the very successful 75th birthday party for the 1938 Capitol. In addition, we appreciate the years of collaboration from the Samuel S. Johnson and Ford Family Foundations, and especially, the Oregon Historical Society.

Special appreciation also goes to the Legislature for taking the first step toward earthquake protection for the building by implementing the Capitol Master Plan. Our “Marble” Committee will keep monitoring that immense project.

Now that we are preparing to kick off the Capitol History Gateway project on February 14th 2014, we are looking toward future funds to expand it and curate its operations. This is on top of continuing projects, like the Oral Histories, and the many special events.

So, your OSCF is moving into a development phase. You will hear more about that in upcoming newsletters and on the website http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/foundation.

Meanwhile my thanks go to the literally hundreds of staff, donors, legislators, foundation members and citizens who care enough about this special building to do something about it!
Capitol Master Plan

The Capitol Master Plan continues to gain momentum as we approach the end of the year. I am pleased to announce that following a very detailed review and interview process we have selected “The inici Group, Inc.” to serve as our project Owner’s Representative. They are an Oregon corporation that brings great experience to the table, and we look forward to working with them over the coming years to see the project through to completion. The exciting times continue as we had several excellent firms submit proposals to serve as Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC). We are scheduling interviews for the week of November 18th to complete the CM/GC selection process and will at the same time start evaluation proposals submitted by architectural firms to fill the final major role in our core team. We are looking to have our primary team in place well before the end of the year.

There are still major milestones to reach and decisions to be made, including how the building will (or will not) be occupied during the renovation, where and for how long staff will be displaced, and when actual construction will start, all the while ensuring no disruption to the legislative process. Even with numbers of unknowns still facing us, I am confident that we are aligning ourselves with the right partners, building a core team that will meet every challenge head on and see the Capitol Master Plan through to an extremely successful conclusion.

The Capitol Holiday Tree is coming!

Come join us at the Capitol Monday December 2, 2013, from 5-8 p.m., where we will be hosting the annual tree lighting ceremony, that will include Santa & Mrs. Clause for the kids, and cookies and punch donated by Roth's for everyone!

If you can't make it on the 2nd, don't worry. From December 3rd through the 20th, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. choir groups from around the state will perform holiday music in the Rotunda. On the 7th and 14th of December, the Capitol will have extended Saturday hours from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Save the Date – Oregon will be one year older!

Please mark your calendars for the State’s birthday on February 14, 2014. With the 155th birthday we’ll celebrate in our true tradition with a delicious cake in the Galleria. In addition to the walking tours to the Gold Man, we will also celebrate the opening of the Capitol History Gateway at the State Capitol, funded by the proceeds from the Pacific Wonderland license plates. The Visitor Welcome Center will house exhibits and videos that introduce visitors to the rich history of Oregon’s democracy.

The accompanying online resource website will provide engaging information about the Capitol. The Visitor Pathway will lead guests through the building and grounds.

As the birthday approaches, we will communicate further details.

Holidays at the Capitol, a Yuletide Celebration! While you’re visiting, don’t forget to stop in and see the decorated Capitol Gift Shop where Foundation Members receive 10% off all merchandise.

2012 tree arrival
Oregon State Capitol Foundation

— Thank You For Your Support —

Capitol Friends Lifetime Members


Capitol Friends 2013

In memory of Marta Melinger, without whose support and expertise, the OSCF would not be where it is today

Nov. 11, 1952 Sept. 13, 2013 Marta Melinger, beloved wife and mother, died from a rare form of ovarian cancer on Sept. 13, 2013. She was 60 years old. Marta was born in Santa Monica, Calif. on Nov. 11, 1952, the eldest daughter of John and Mary Ellan Mellinger of Newton, Iowa, whose work ethic and small town values became the core of Marta's life. Her childhood was graced with a passion for reading, writing and sports. Marta graduated from Iowa State University in 1974 with degrees in Theater and English, the latter of which she used in her first job working for the Des Moines Register writing obituaries and theater reviews. Following her heart and her love for the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest, she moved to Oregon in 1975. Every summer Marta returned to her beloved Des Moines YMCA Family Camp in Boone, Iowa to reconnect with her extended family and friends. She later transferred that love to her husband, daughters and other friends. Oregon provided many opportunities for Marta, beginning with her first job working for the Multnomah County Republican Central Committee during the day and stage acting in a number of roles at night. At 27, Marta switched her career focus to building arts organizations, a continuing passion until her death. As Director of Communications at Seattle Repertory Theater and later Long Wharf Theatre of New Haven, Conn., Marta honed her professional skills. She moved to the East Coast in 1983. In New Haven, Conn., Marta met her beloved, David Frackelton, whom she married in June 1985. In March 1987, they had their first child, Alexandra Zane, and bought their first house. Their love was instilled by a growing and remarkable group of friends. It was during this time that Marta worked as a management consultant, developing her interest in organizational change theory and facilitation. Before Zane was two, Marta and David decided to move back to the Pacific Northwest. With the birth of their second daughter, Gillian, in July 1989, the Frackelton family was complete, settling in the Raleigh Park neighborhood of Southwest Portland.

In Portland, Marta began a long series of volunteer activities, including grass roots fundraising for the first Escalop Option Levy for Beaverton Schools, redevelopment of the Beaverton Education Foundation including committee work to develop its Annual Telethon, Shagdoll for Arquaque 1992, design and production of The Raleigh Park School's annual talent show, design and leadership of a Coming of Age Program for her church and various political campaigns. She was always interested in how groups of volunteers could be organized to make the world a better place. She used her skills and energy to that end. Her professional life included consulting for many arts and cultural organizations throughout the West Coast. She particularly enjoyed her work for Trinet, Legislative Administration on the Oregon State Capitol History Center Strategic Plan and many projects for the Oregon Arts Commission over a 20-year relationship, including five Arts Summits and the formalized cultural summit that led to the creation of the Oregon Cultural Trust. She also consulted with such diverse organizations as the National Endowment for the Arts, University of Oregon, University of California Santa Cruz/Santa Cruz County, U.S. Department of Justice and Pacificorp. During her five year tenure as Executive Director of the Oregon Children's Theater, she led the theater through a transition from its founder, leaving it fiscally strong and organizationally healthy. Her final years were filled with many projects working with David and other collaborators through her company, The Canoe Group. Marta was most proud of raising two extraordinary daughters with David that they still love. As Director of Communications at Seattle Repertory Theater and later Long Wharf Theatre, Marta focused her energy on supporting and working with other women in the theater. She also consulted with such diverse organizations as the National Endowment for the Arts, University of Oregon, University of California Santa Cruz/Santa Cruz County, U.S. Department of Justice and Pacificorp. During her five year tenure as Executive Director of the Oregon Children's Theater, she led the theater through a transition from its founder, leaving it fiscally strong and organizationally healthy. Her final years were filled with many projects working with David and other collaborators through her company, The Canoe Group. Marta was most proud of raising two extraordinary daughters with David that they still love. As Director of Communications at Seattle Repertory Theater and later Long Wharf Theatre, Marta focused her energy on supporting and working with other women in the theater.

The Fund for the Oregon State Capitol Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the historical integrity of the Oregon State Capitol.