

## **In the Matter of Affirming Clackamas County's Commitment to History and Culture**

WHEREAS, Clackamas County recognizes that culture and heritage reflect and shape values, beliefs, and aspirations, thereby defining a people's identity; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County affirms that in an era of globalization, heritage helps us to remember our cultural diversity, and its understanding develops mutual respect and renewed dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County recognizes the robust history of its territory from time immemorial to the present; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County was formed as one of the original 4 districts of the Oregon Country in 1843 and is named for the Clackamas people who lived here; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County is home to Oregon City, the original and main terminus of the Oregon Trail, considered the route of the greatest voluntary mass migration, which was platted by Hudson Bay Company's chief factor, Dr. John McLoughlin, in 1842; and

WHEREAS, Oregon City is the first American city west of the Rocky Mountains, incorporated in 1844, and was Oregon's territorial and then first state Capital; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County is home to Willamette Falls on the Willamette (Willamt) River which is the ancestral home as well as a key fishing and trading center for the indigenous peoples and tribes who were displaced by government policies; and

WHEREAS, Willamette Falls is the second largest waterfall in America by water volume and it has been used as a hydropower resource, creating opportunities for lumber mills, grain milling, wool fabric production, brick manufacturing, and electricity generation, including the first long-distance transmission of electricity in the US, and perhaps the world, from Oregon City to Portland; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County is a proud partner in the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, which will revive a cherished cultural site, restore public access to the river, transform Oregon City as a historical city and tourist destination, and restore habitat for fish, lamprey, and numerous other species; and

WHEREAS, over 60 local entities and organizations support the work of history and culture such as the Clackamas Historical Society, the Museum of the Oregon Territory, Willamette Falls Heritage Area and Landing Coalition, Clackamas County Tourism and Cultural Affairs, and many others;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners does hereby affirm that Clackamas County's rich heritage and culture are an important component of local, state and national tourism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clackamas County will preserve, cultivate, and invest in activities and organizations that support this history and culture.

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