

University of Oregon Museum of Natural & Cultural History
Eugene, Oregon

Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Foundation

The Museum of Natural & Cultural History (MNCH) was established as the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology by act of the Oregon Legislature in 1935.

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 352.045) state, in part,

The anthropological collections at the University of Oregon are designated and established as the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology. The Oregon State Museum of Anthropology is designated as the official depository for any material of an archaeological or anthropological nature that may come into the possession of the State of Oregon...or as a consequence of gifts from the federal government, the Smithsonian Institution or from other public or private agencies.

On July 27, 1936, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education voted to approve the creation of a Museum of Natural History at the University of Oregon “to provide for more efficient care and use of various collections then in the possession of the University” (L.S. Cressman, 1972), including the Condon paleontological, ornithological, zoological, herbarium, and anthropological collections.

Our vision, mission and guiding principles reflect the responsibility that the Oregon Legislature and the State Board of Higher Education vested in the Museum.

Vision

The Museum is a leader among university museums of natural and cultural history, a catalyst for intellectual discovery, a contributor to the University’s mission, and a connection to our research and collections for diverse constituents.

Mission

The Museum enhances knowledge of Earth’s environment and cultures, inspiring stewardship of our collective past, present, and future.

Our Constituents

The Museum is for everyone. Our most significant constituents are:

- University of Oregon students, faculty, and staff, who use the Museum on an ongoing basis for research, teaching, learning, and enjoyment;
- Native people who contribute to exhibit and program development, conduct research in the collections, and participate in Museum activities;
- Students, scholars, experts, collectors, and museum professionals—local to worldwide-- who use the Museum as the major state repository of anthropological and paleontological collections, research, and exhibits;
- Instructors and students (pre-K through higher education) who are teaching and learning about natural and cultural history;

- Local, state and federal agencies that collaborate with and use the museum as a venue and resource; and
- Community members and tourists who are interested in exploring and learning more about the natural and cultural history of Oregon.

Guiding Principles

The Museum:

- protects and interprets significant natural and cultural history collections;
- promotes scientific and interdisciplinary understanding of the world around us;
- encourages stewardship of natural and cultural history through research, preservation, interpretation, and education;
- integrates university teaching, research, and service objectives;
- provides exhibits and programs that are mission-centered, interpretive and engage broad audiences;
- encourages lifelong learning that is accessible to all;
- engages and collaborates with the Eugene/Springfield and regional communities drawing on the diverse resources of talented and informed individuals;
- welcomes Oregon residents and out-of-state visitors to explore and enjoy our state's diverse natural and cultural history; and
- follows the highest ethical, academic, research, and professional standards.

Approved:

_____ Date: _____
 Jon Erlandson, Executive Director, Museum of Natural and Cultural History

_____ Date: _____
 Doug Blandy, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, University of Oregon

_____ Date: _____
 Scott Coltrane, Senior Vice President and Provost, University of Oregon

_____ Date: _____
 Michael Gottfredson, President, University of Oregon