

# The OCF Vision Action Committee Presents the State of the Vision 2014 Report



Responses to each of the 9 OCF Vision Action Goals  
from a series of articles in the Fair Family News during  
2012 & 2013

## **(1) Increase the diversity of all aspects of the Oregon Country Fair community.**

*Article in the Fair Family News, October 2012 - The first goal of the Fair states: The Oregon County Fair shall increase the diversity of all aspects of the OCF. One way to reach this goal includes hiring acts which are strong draws for underrepresented populations, such as Flamenco Chico at the Spirit Tower or belly dancing at the Gypsy stage. In addition, alter-abled Access has been expanding from better transportation to the addition of pathway interpreters so people of all abilities can enjoy the fair.*

*The Exit Poll taken at the 2009 and 2010 fair documented the ethnic, cultural, and economic demographics of fairgoers. The fair used this information to investigate advertising in underrepresented populations and printing posters in different languages to get the word out to everyone. The ultimate outcome of this goal is to have the demographics of The Oregon Country Fair at least match, if not exceed the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Lane County.*

### **Response:**

Dear Vision Action Committee,

This is in response to your article in October FFN asking for feedback about Goal 1. As a resident of the Fernridge Community for the past 36 years, I've always been uncomfortable with this goal. I remember when the Veneta area was a hub of OCA (Oregon Citizen's Alliance) activity. The OCA was a group seeking to pass anti-homosexual legislation. Eugene defeated the ballot measures put forth by the OCA, but Veneta and Elmira were in strong support. Do we really want our event to reflect the cultural diversity of our region? If so we must include speakers from the Tea Party on our spoken word stages. We must provide a platform for those in our region who believe that homosexuality is dangerous to family values. Our food booths must equally represent the tastes of those who want hot dogs and cotton candy.

I'm okay with the fair reflecting Lane County's demographics for ethnic diversity, but I don't want our celebration to reflect the cultural diversity of Lane County. I love that the fair exists as a reflection of alternative values.

I suggest removal or revision of Goal One.

Susanna DeFazio

## **(2) Maintain and improve our land and facilities.**

*Article in the fair Family News, November 2012 - Goal II is a challenge for the Fair Family to continue leading the way in green building, environmental stewardship and waste reduction. So, how are we doing? Are we using reusable and recyclable materials in our structures? Are we tripling our solar use? And how's the Upland Community Center progressing? Is the Fair Family still interested in qualifying Upland and future buildings through the nationally accredited Green Building Certification Institute's LEED program? These are questions inquiring committee and Fair Family members would like to know!*

*Goal II sets high standards. From mapping roads and structures, drafting the facilities infrastructures and placements; and surveying our energy consumption, the Fair Family's challenge is to provide quality maps for site-based coordination and sustainable practices while establishing assessment methods and solid criteria for purchasing and caring for new sites. That's a tall order, and opportunities abound for interested parties.*

### **Responses:**

Hello there Vision Committee,

Just wanted to put my two cents in. The first thing I think of when I hear Oregon Country Fair and infrastructure is our potty system. This system is so incredibly outdated and sadly inadequate for Fair Family and our paying guests. PLEASE address this! It is almost unbearable and there has to be a better way. Before we add to the Fair I feel that we should fix what is broken. It will be worth it no matter what the cost. I know if you visit the potty lines especially in Fair during hours you will hear this echoed many, many times over.

Thank you,  
Vraiciel Vraiciel <rnanakul@gmail.com>

## **(3) Steward our lands in accordance with ecological standards.**

*Article in the Fair Family News, January 2013 - The native Calipuya used our land as a fall gathering encampment to harvest and process acorns and camas roots. Archeological research shows there are hundreds of camas ovens on the site going back 10,000 years.*

*The original 270 acre Fair site is mostly wetlands that were used only for agriculture. It was modified significantly to drain the land and make it suitable for haying and raising cattle. Once the Fair purchased the land, we eliminated cattle grazing to protect the environment. We also set aside the Unorganized Territory as a wildlife habitat.*

*In 1991 the Fair established the Land Use Management and Planning (LUMP) committee and charged it with developing a management plan. This resulted in the LUMP manual, last revised in 2010, which can be viewed at: [www.oregoncountryfair.net](http://www.oregoncountryfair.net)*

*In 2001 the Fair also embarked on a project restoring some of the Indian Creek meander and replanting native plants (2001). The Fair has also established a native plant nursery to provide native plants species to provide for replanting.*

*Over the years, the Fair purchased approximately 140 more acres of a mix of upland and wetland areas and has updated the Land Use Management Plan and created our own zoning map as part of the LUMP manual.*

*Now is the time to re-evaluate Goal 3. Are we accomplishing this goal? How do we measure it? Are there different standards between the rest of the year and the days of the Fair?*

## **Responses**

Hi Paxton,

Here is the response to your call for input on OCF's Goal #3, "Steward our land in accordance with ecological standards". The volunteer work Aaron and I have been doing--in collaboration with Quarter Master, Site, the Management team, and literally hundreds of "Nest Neighbors" from across all sectors of the OCF community--fits squarely within this goal.

We haven't finished our summary from 2012 yet, but it was very similar to the attached 2011 report in terms of results and overall level of effort. For your upcoming FFN article or your yearly report, refer to our report, the attached poster (which deals more with the fair-wide ecological stewardship and was displayed next to Galleria Philanthropia this year), or feel free to use any part of the following text I tried to tailor to your FFN article...You probably are going for something shorter, so feel free to modify as you like:

"The OCF Wildlife Team started in 2010 through a collaboration between OCF management and two fair-family wildlife biologists, Glenn Johnson and Aaron Holmes, who had been working with Klamath Bird Observatory's educational booth within Community Village. The Wildlife Team now can now be called upon through Quarter Master (pre-fair) and Fair Central (Wed-Monday of the fair event) to help fair family work out a sustained response when nesting birds and other wildlife are found on-site during the main camp period (early June through mid-July). The team works with diverse groups at the fair including vendors, staff, entertainers, and volunteers from all crews, especially QM, Site, Construction, VegManECs, and Registration. The team works with the fair family to identify native wildlife and any precarious situations where some extra intention and accommodation might help to ensure critters remain safe.

For example, they will make sure campers are aware of young birds next to a camp site and work with them to come up with a plan to keep parent-birds from being consistently flushed away from their nesting area and abandoning their young. Sometimes this plan is just being aware and keeping an eye out to make sure other fair family also know about it and avoid impacting the area, or might involve putting up a visual barrier or re-routing foot-traffic. The team partners with these local fair family "Nest Neighbors" who work or camp near nesting birds and other wildlife, and empowers them with appropriate tools and approaches to minimize harm. They encourage fair family to be aware and actually become the local steward preventing impacts, with the Wildlife Team providing support through their knowledge of species' biology, what has worked well at the fair, and years of professional biology experience. In this way the OCF is creating a high "ecological standard" of its own by supporting a community-wide intention to accommodate native wildlife, and simultaneously ensuring fair family are in compliance with the wider societal standards related to wildlife management. In the three years the team has been in operation, they have responded to well over 100 situations. While most of these have been routine and just involved raising awareness and monitoring the situation, in many cases Nest Neighbors and the Wildlife Team successfully co-created unique, locally-tailored solutions which clearly prevented nest-abandonment or other direct impacts to wildlife."

Eventually I think we should discuss the wording of this goal--it seems to me to be focused on site stewardship and what happens there meeting some (undefined) ecological standard. Others have interpreted it as relating to energy production/consumption--which to me relates more to the sustainability of the event and our eco-carbon footprint beyond the site. OCF's awesome recycling team and their efforts overlap with on-site

stewardship, our wider global footprint and a more sustainable event. Good topics for the summit this fall, perhaps not best addressed in your upcoming article.

Thanks for your work on behalf of the Fair!!

*Glenn Johnson*

Dear Vision Action Committee,

I just want to start out with how excited I was to stumble upon the article "Does the Fair Meet its Environmental Goals?" and the general consensus to implement more environmentally-friendly policies in the January newsletter. Ecologically sound site stewardship is extremely essential if the Fair family truly strives for sustainability.

Since finishing my undergraduate program in Environmental Biology at UC Santa Cruz (2008)—focusing on alternative agricultural methods and inter-species interactions—I have continued to fine-tune my interests in search of answers to similar ecological questions posed in the article. My most recent project (MS in São Paulo, Brazil, publication pending) assessed the microbial communities undergoing decomposition in forest ecosystems in a Brazilian rainforest (pardon the Portuguese, but the abstract also has an English version - <http://www.teses.usp.br/teses/disponiveis/11/11138/tde-24102012-150604/en.php>). Although the datasets were attributed to highly specific micro-habitats, the experience has definitely catalyzed my brainstorming for some possible applications in environmental assessment and/or biogeographical mapping.

During this past Fair (in which I was still knee-deep in completing my Master's thesis and juggling my time dedicated to Fair preparation!), I came up with the following potential projects that could be undertaken as a collaborative effort (not mutually exclusive by any means):

(1) Environmental impact of certain zones pre/post-disturbance (i.e., annual Fair event, converting Craft Lot, Kermit, and Ms. Piggy). This data would indicate shorter-term shifts in species composition, diversity, and abundance. Specialists from varied research fields could be included to amass information about the entire food web (microbial communities, invertebrates, small mammals, bird, etc.). Physical/chemical soil attributes would also benefit this study.

(2) Providing evidence that our stewardship has benefitted the environment since conversion from the previous agricultural land-uses. This data would include a longer-term assessment and could serve as supporting information for relevant grant requests and/or restoration summaries.

I would love to speak about this further with any interested parties. Please let me know if there are also other forms of documentation that could be compiled to formalize requests (this message merely serves to fish for collaborators and/or further direction). Thank you for your time and consideration!

Yours truly,

*Lucid (Construction crew)*

Specific response to Paxton's letter in FFN 'Does the Fair Meet its Environmental Goals?'

From the LUMP manual 2010: **Goals**

Shade: Wildflowers: Dust control: Dense understory: Barefoot-friendly path: Control of sheet and drip erosion: Comprehensive plant list with mapped sites: Vegetation buffers between campsites and paths: Healthy, diverse native plant/fungal/algal/lichen communities: Full cycle of germination, growth, senescence, death, and decay: Control of invasive non-natives.

When I look at this list of goals, the gaps are huge. Growing food as a priority is not mentioned. Biodiversity is ignored. So is radical weather. If shade is a goal, why have we not planted the parking lot?

If wildflowers are a second priority, why do we mow at all during the spring? We see wildflowers mowed. Sometimes even rare and uncommon ones have been eliminated by the yearly mowing practice like *Delphinium pavonaceum*.

Since there are reasons given for concern about non-natives, why do we plant commercial grass seed on the paths?

Among the 10 ecofacts about the fair site: delineate the biodiversity of the site relative to Lane County, the state of Oregon and the entire planet.

Why have the fair reps attend OSU programs when the university promotes toxiculture, genetic engineering and a minimal understanding of biodiversity.

Instead, replace this proposal with one which promotes Mollison style permaculture, biodiversification and ecology relevant to a changing environment. The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center in California has some resident ecological geniuses who might well come to help the OCF when it comes to expertise in land management and eco-savvy.

When looking at the disintegrating bank of the Long Tom at the fair site, I wonder why we have not stabilized the banks with appropriate plantings. If we talk about ecology, why are we so limited in practicing it effectively?

In terms of ecology partners for the fair, please let us choose enlightened examples like Gerdemann's garden just north of Yachats. Also engage local organic seed people and people who already have some savvy and experience with plant biodiversity.

**The notion of planting only native plants is a red herring.** A couple of million years ago the land was under the ocean. Many plants on the land are non-native introductions. It seems more reasonable to plant more fruit trees than eliminate the ones that are already present. Some native plants on the land are highly toxic like water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*). Do we want to maintain them or encourage their spread?

**Native vs non-native is a biased, dualistic ecology.** Before *Homo sapiens* occupied the PNW lands, the land was native. The 'Native' Americans, those people who preceded Europeans practiced horticulture and used burning to manage the ecosystems. Europeans and the Columbian Exchange brought many kinds of organisms to the land. In the process we have a huge seed burden that makes it impossible to return to a 'native' ecology. Instead we need to move on and learn more about what will make the OCF site a conservation site on local, regional and planetary levels.

If we want to discuss ecology, what about the ecology of food, food that we who serve the fair eat, food that is served at the fair, food that is locally grown, food that is organic and food that is grown by the fair, by volunteers, staff and participants. Do we care more about the land than about the people or can we organize the view to include both in a visionary and practical way.

More general discussion and future sense:

Natives of the PNW gathered during fall at what is now the OCF site to harvest native food in season: camas, acorns and likely wapato.

What food plants like wet feet in the fall/winter/spring cold times? Blueberries, pears, camas, wapato, some alliums, sea berry and many others.

An organic sustainable community needs a large milpa. (milpa: a concept from south of the border means a place that is a source of life, an extended garden in a diversity sense, a nurturing place for one's family and friends). We need a place to encourage biodiversity, examine and develop adaptive biological communities. There are many species and many uses that connect them to our lives and to the biosphere. The weather will continue to change and go thru extremes. Are we planning and planting adaptivars (adapted cultivars)? Do we have a program and process for increasing the biodiversity of the OCF land holdings? We need an easily articulated vision which is global in scope and specific to our ecosystems.

Sassafras, sweet birch, canoe birch, maples in complexity, benzoin, chestnuts, camellia tea, hazels, walnuts, olives, so many beautiful and interesting conifers, pawpaw's, kiwifruit vines, together with large greenhouses for citrus, avocados, ginger, turmeric (which we are doing with great success in Corvallis and which we welcome you to come visit) creating a densifying garden of gardens that includes species, families and orders focusing on food and survival, on succession, adaptation and potentiality. We can respond meaningfully to the eco-crisis that involves all of us.

A fall harvest/barter fair celebration can bring us back to native food plants, to complete cycles, to our land/water based adaptation to the coming times and a sharing of the year's harvest to sustain us thru hard times, good times, indeed; all times.

Of the 3000+ species of plants in Oregon, and of the about 150,000 planetary species of plants that grow in the temperate zone, on the OCF land we could do with more food plants with a wide spectrum of nutritional advantages, with herbs and medicinals, with long lived perennials and short term annuals, with forage for critters of all kinds. We have inherited land from the earth. If we are going to progress from large parking lots to perennial gardens, then let our generations foster a remarkable and diverse forest. Most of it gets cut down, turned under, paved and piled upon. During the years and generations of the fair, young trees grow older and the old ones fall down. So we can plant some diverse young trees and watch them grow into maturity.

If camas was a primary native staple food plant of the PNW, then why not plant some hundreds of thousands of camas and include a camas cookout with the harvest/barter fair.

With 440 acres, what is possible in terms of growing food for the fair, biodiversity for the people and health for the community is nurturing the tree of life, giving peace a change and love an opportunity.

*'Bringing it all back home' Dylan*

*Al Kapuler, Linda Kapuler, Dylana Kapuler and Mario Dibenedetto*

#### **(4) Support artists and entertainers.**

*Article in the Fair Family News, February 2013 - Is the OCF really supporting its artists and entertainers as well as it could be? When goals for the OCF were adapted, there were three suggestions on to how to support artists and entertainers:*

- 1.) The Fair will review compensation for entertainers at the three-day event.*
- 2.) The Fair will adopt at least five strategies to support young and emerging artist and entertainers at the three-day event and year-around.*
- 3.) The Fair will survey event artists and entertainers to explore issues of concern.*

*Has satisfactory progress has been made on these points? Other support has been provided as follows:*

*Flowing Notes shower area was rebuilt and opened in 2010. Although not an entertainment only shower, it is located directly across from the entertainment camping area and has received praise. The Community Center has not been built yet, but may someday provide a venue for off-season performances, classes and practice. The fire pit in the entertainer camping area is functional, but there have been some reports that it is hard for the musicians to hear each other, as they are blasted by the amplified and very loud music from the parties that occur at Water headquarters, right next door. There is great freedom for youth to sit down practically anywhere in the Fair and play an instrument as a busker.*

*Now is the time to re-evaluate Goal 4. How has the Fair done on the three original suggestions above and the support steps that have been accomplished? What more needs to be done to fully meet this goal? Artists and entertainers — We want your input!*

#### **Responses**

Howdy,

I've been to all but three or four fairs, if you include missing the 1969 event (first grade conflicts).

I've entertained on the paths and stages for about 30 years.

The fair certainly helped inspire me to become a professional entertainer. Consequently, I've fed my family through variety performance since 1987.

'Though I've performed at fairs and festivals here and abroad, the OCF remains "The Fair."

My input, for what it's worth:

##### **1) Compensation**

The fair pays about half of my minimum performance fee. Less than I charge nursing homes and cancer camps. It is the lowest paying multiple day event on my calendar. With hats, I can bump it up to just under my lowest rate. When I get 2 stage slots a day, I can make my minimum (less vehicle pass and teen passes for my performing daughters). This is far more than I get for helping coordinate and emcee the Midnight Show for the last decade (\$0). It is a labor of love and has become a working vacation. Oddly, I spend more time creating material for OCF performance than for other events; partly in the hopes that a reputation as an innovator will help assure a spot when I apply next year.

## 2) Young and Emerging Artists

I've incorporated my family into my show over the last several years in the hopes of continuing our bloodline at the fair. My clan started working the fair with a food booth in 1970 then became Hilltop Bakery and I spun off from there. Supporting upcoming artists should include encouraging the musical comedy, juggling and magic of my daughters' performances by giving them artist passes, but they continue to be treated as teens for whom I must buy passes. Perhaps all acts only get a few passes and have to buy the rest. Who knows? It's always been an inside game leaving many to wonder how Stage Left brings in myriad parade people while other acts have to wrangle for an extra pass.

## 3) Issues of Concern

The whole process has gotten easier over the years, especially application and on-site registration (remember talking your way into parking then baking in the sun while someone digs for your pass?).

Parking is still far away, sure, but that's only a drag if you have props that must be stored out of camp.

Backstage storage has improved, but still won't accommodate my large props nor is it secure.

Food vouchers have increased, but so have food costs.

Free showers are somewhere and food at main camp is rumored, but I seldom have time to partake in these extra since I'm busy prepping, schlepping and festing.

I started by path busking, but there isn't room to perform kinetic comedy like there used to be. A few larger non-music busker spots might be fun.

Rhys Thomas

jugglemania

rhys@jugglemania.com 3/20/13

Thanks for your letter in the Fair Family News inviting performer feedback regarding the goal of the Fair.

I'm sure that others will correct your impression that there is "freedom for youth to sit down practically anywhere in the Fair to play an instrument as a busker" ... there are stages and other activities going on that would expect to be consulted in many areas, staff has concerns about bottlenecks on pedestrian movement and so buskers will be moved and, of course, there are other casual performers who share the available places. All of that is just a part of getting along with our neighbors ... something that buskers, the world over, learn to deal with.

Regarding the three stated goals

1) The Fair will review compensation for entertainers at the three day event.

I personally don't know or care so much about increasing the monetary compensation for performers (others do) but I am disappointed at the Fair's refusal to even consider covering the cost of travel for bringing in Vaude performers from afar. There are some wonderful acts that would play for the minimal money offered if we didn't tell them that they would first have to agree to spend much more than that to fly themselves to



Oregon.

2) The Fair will adopt at least five strategies to support young and emerging artist and entertainers at the 3 day event & year round.

I haven't heard what strategies were adopted or, even what people had in mind when proposing this. I, personally, do not consider the planned Community Center to be an important method of addressing this support for performers. If the Fair wanted to subsidize a monthly Open Mic series at the WOW Hall or other Eugene venue I would think that people were more serious about this statement.

3) The Fair will survey event artists and entertainers to explore issues of concern.

I know that there have been larger surveys of Fairgoers and some of the questions asked were about the Fair's entertainment but I'm not sure that that was done with the purpose of addressing this.

The most direct method of showing support for the entertainers, I think, would be to initiate improvements at the stages, backstage areas and Entertainment campgrounds. The showers at Entertainment Camp are just a joy and a very real statement of support for the entertainers who are otherwise crammed pretty tightly into a campground that is awakened early by hard working Recycling Crew people whose trucks sensibly BEEP, BEEP, BEEP to warn the other nearby workers of the danger.

Any other additions to Entertainment camp that didn't bring in noise would be a gesture that would be understood.

Thanks for the chance to tell someone.

*Tom Noddy*

Vaudeville entertainer

To the Vision Action Committee, in response to Peter Cornelison's article in the February 2013 issue of the Fair Family News, requesting feedback from entertainers about "Goal 4: The Oregon Country Fair shall support artists and entertainers"

I have been coming to the Oregon Country Fair since 1975.

In addition to helping to build the first Vaudeville stage at the Fair, and performing at Chumleighland and Stage Left and Main Stage, I have been leading the Parade for over 35 years.

I became an Elder five years ago, but continue to get my pass through Vaudeville.

To reply to the 3 questions asked:

1) I am only aware of one review of performer compensation, which happened perhaps ten years ago. At that time, my compensation was reduced. The explanation given to me was that the Vaudeville coordinators wanted to even out the compensation given to all entertainers and to do this they decided to lower the amount given to the most highly paid in order to give more compensation to those who were on the lower end of the scale. In subsequent years I started to be charged for my SO pass, and then charged for vehicle passes. In 2012 my contract amount was \$300 but my "take-home" pay was \$180, which does not even cover the cost of my gas to get to the Fair and back home again (nor do the food vouchers cover the cost of my food.)

2) I am not aware of any support for young and emerging entertainers, either at OCF or year-around.

3) This is the first survey I have heard about.

I do not feel like any progress has been made on any of the above issues.

In response to the “support” mentioned in the FFN article:

Flowing Notes shower is irrelevant to anyone camping at Stage Left. It is at the far end of the Fair, and there isn't time to hike there, wait for a shower, and hike back to camp in between parades and shows. If it was open 24/7, it might be slightly useful. When we were asked to move from Chumleighland to Stage Left, we were asked what would make the move work for us. We asked for backstage toilets, water, and showers, vehicle access, and vehicle camping. All of this was arranged except for the showers. We were told that there was insufficient drainage to install showers, and not enough money to bring in a shower trailer. We still do not have any showers available anywhere near our camping area.

The proposed Community Center is unlikely, in my opinion, to be of much use to entertainers. Since most Fair entertainers do not live in the area, it would serve only a few, if any. If the Fair won't pay entertainers any significant amount for 3 days of hard work, I do not expect that it would pay anyone enough to perform at the community center's hypothetical venue. And where would the audience come from? Veneta and Elmira? Practice space? Too far from where most entertainers live to be useful.

Last year the party at Water Camp was so loud that it not only shut down the campfire at the front of entertainment camp, but also shut down the campfire at the DuCaniveaux camp at the far end of entertainment camp.

Please remember that “Entertainment Camp” is only one of at least four areas where entertainers actually camp. Over 100 of us camp behind Stage Left, many more camp behind WC Fields stage, and a lot of entertainers camp behind Chela Mela meadow.

I don't believe that “there is great freedom for youth (or anyone) to sit down practically anywhere in the Fair and play an instrument as a busker.” With crowds on the path, noise from stages, and some craft and food booths not wanting their booths blocked, there are very few places where it is possible for buskers to gather a crowd, and there are many performers trying to use those few spots. 30 years ago this statement had some truth to it, but not in recent history.

In conclusion, I feel that the Fair treats the Vaudeville performers very poorly, has done little to help, and that over the last 35 years the situation has gotten worse, not better.

Many promises have been made by the Fair management, but few have been kept. For years we were told that once the Fair had some money, the performers would receive more compensation. Then the story was that once the property was purchased, the entertainers would get more money. Never happened. Once the Fair could afford it, showers would be provided behind Stage Left. Never happened.

I have yet to see any real progress, or even any real effort, to improve things. The Fair used to be a major gathering place for the top Vaudeville performers in the country, but because of the Fair's unwillingness to provide money for transportation, many performers were unwilling to spend hundreds of dollars (not to mention passing up gigs which actually paid money) in order to play in the woods for a few days and therefore stopped coming. Overall, the quality of the

Vaudeville entertainment at the Fair has declined over the years, in large part because the Fair is unwilling to cover the costs of the performers. Most Vaudeville performers do not come to the Fair in order to make money, but many are not willing to come to the Fair if it costs them too much money.

- Tim Furst, aka Fyodor Karamazov  
of The Flying Karamazov Brothers

Dear Vision Action Committee Members and OCF Board of Directors,

I would like to share my suggestion with you regarding the published statement from the Fair Family News article regarding Goal 4, although it is the specific comment regarding water crew parties that I am concerned with.

For far too many years there has been known conflict between Entertainment Camp and Water Crew. I would like to believe that it is the common goal of all people at OCF to coexist peacefully, behave neighborly, and work together respectfully to resolve any conflicts that may naturally arise. Unfortunately, there is a history of unresolved issues from both sides and a growth pattern that has pushed these two very critical components of our fabulous event into closer proximity, compounding the conflicts, and fueled by incompatible personalities. I can understand how entertainment camp has issues with the noise, late hours kept, space consumption, and population growth that is now Water Crew. Equally, I recognize that Water Crew has attempted to compromise over the years by giving up drumming at night, and was granted sound permits for any amplified music in an attempt to follow the rules, has even cancelled their Wednesday Night kids talent show due to complaints from the neighboring entertainment campfire; they have not expanded past their original boundaries, although the appearance is misleading with the addition of the second story.

I do not feel that it is "fair", or in anyone's best interest to allow this conflict to continue.

A simple solution would be to work it out, get along. That clearly isn't happening, when one reads published negative comments that water crew parties are a sited reason for possibly not meeting a vision action committee goal. After careful consideration, I would like to respectfully suggest that Entertainment Camp relocate their campfire/gathering place to a quiet, calm, less congested area, where they can hear each other over their campfire. I am suggesting the new property (Henderson's) near Aero and Suttle Rd. I don't know what the plans are for that area, but it seems like that would be a nice camping ground, lots of room, quiet, grassy and pleasant, easy in and out access. They could shuttle to Main Stage (like so many already do) with their gear. I recognize and respect that their camp fire has been in its current location for a long time now, just as Water Crew has been at their location for a long time, but you can't relocate the trucks, reservoir, pumps, etc., and the water carts come in at 11 pm or later at night; so in a proactive effort to reduce conflict and eliminate the progressive growth of the existing conflict, I would like this idea to be considered.

I have given a lot of thought to this specific conflict. As Water Crew Co-Coordinator, I would like to offer myself open to any other suggestions people may have to finding a resolution.

Love & Peaches,

*Christie Banks*  
[ChristieBanks2u@yahoo.com](mailto:ChristieBanks2u@yahoo.com)

**(5) Create participatory events and experiences that attract and include more youth and elders.**

Article in the Fair Family News, March 2013 - As the Fair has aged and evolved, so have the numbers and diversity of the people participating in the Fair; not only Fairgoers, but volunteers as well.

*Not long ago, a new kid's loop was added, yet what specifically is there for children to do? Is there a place children can actually engage in activities specifically targeted for them?*

*There are greater numbers of elderly people participating, and with that population comes varying levels of mobility. How easy is the Fair to negotiate? How easy is it for those with limited mobility to view, much less engage in, that which the Fair has to offer? Would it be beneficial to create more designated handicapped areas, such as nearer Main Stage in particular, a place to put down lawn chairs and to park more wheelchairs?*

*The Fair needs to be exciting and accessible for all attendees and volunteers, not just the young and active.*

**No Responses**

**(6) Support a healthy and dynamic culture for participation by volunteers and members.**

Article in the Fair Family News, April 2013 - How well do you think the Fair is meeting Goal 6? This is the original list of suggested ways to facilitate this goal as passed by the BOD in 2008.

- A. The Fair will review its policies relating to ethical allocation of financial and material resources among participants in the three day event.*
- B. The Fair will convene a work session to brainstorm ways to increase membership participation in Fair governance and organization.*
- C. The Fair will survey the membership to estimate the rate at which teens will be graduating to adult status and adults to Elder status.*
- D. The Fair will establish a database of contact information for all people who obtain camping passes to the three-day event.*
- E. The Fair will begin sending each wrist banded participant an email once each year with information including hours for Fair services, site access information, recycling and environmental sustainability information, Fair policy changes, and other key messages.*
- F. On an ongoing basis, the Fair will document the number of people voting at the Annual Meeting (in person and by absentee ballot), attending all Fair meetings, and participating in work sessions, work parties, and evaluation meetings; the Fair will use this information to create future participation goals.*
- G. On an ongoing basis, the Fair will use surveys and interviews to document issues of concern to Fair artisans.*

*Are these ways still germane? What is being met? What should be added? What should be deleted? What is inappropriate? Can any of these be consolidated? What are we missing?*

**No Responses**

**(7) Foster better communication and information exchange.**

Article in the Fair Family News, May 2013 – The Fair has implemented several ongoing projects that meet Goal 7:

- *A History Booth audio archive*
- *Fair Family and Fair-Goer Surveys*
- *Expanding our Mediation/Arbitration process and Humanistic Intervention trainings*
- *Developing a social media team*
- *Documenting Jill Heiman Vision Fund activities*
- *The Archive Project, established last year to identify and collect donated Fair media and preserve it for the future.*

*Projects that are in development that meet Goal 7:*

- *Master map update — Developing an integrated GIS mapping system with overlays.*
- *Website project — Directly providing information exchange to the public and family to inform and keep public and members up to date.*
- *Path interpreters / guides — Encouraging active engagement in Fair experience for attendees*
- *State of the Vision report — Helping to communicate the connection between ongoing projects and a long-term direction for the Fair as an organization*

*How have we done? Are these projects still germane? What is being met? What is not being met? What should be added? What should be deleted? Have we adapted to the changing directions of the Internet revolution?*

## **Responses**

Hi all,

Read about Goal 7 in the FFN and have these thoughts: As a long-term booth person, I was trying this year to arrange my son's wedding, which he wants to have at Fair. I was surprised how little I knew about how the Fair works during Fair (I am always working nonstop and have practically never left the Fair during the event) and who to ask about my various questions. I didn't want to waste staff time while I got my ducks in a row.

We have what I call the \*not my dog\* response when people are asked about areas that aren't in their crew responsibilities, and because of the frequency of these interactions, a fatigue that sets in about helping people find out what they need to know. I serve on the Craft Committee, and we repeatedly field questions and situations that surprise us. People don't seem to read the full guidelines, or get confused by what they do read. They don't know what we do or what we can't do. I see that as the CC failing to explain themselves so that everyone knows our function and our issues. We're not the only committee that faces the problem.

I know policy dissemination is an ongoing process but my suggestion would be that we need some **policy papers**, which would be elaborations on certain policy areas. They would guide people to the crews, coordinators, or staff members who would know something about their particular issue. For instance:

*"If you want to have a wedding on site..."*

*"If your Fair Family member dies..."* (Obviously one which would need careful wording.)

Booth people have many areas of uncertainty, such as how to get building materials on site, who to ask about power, etc., and I think the top-down system of asking Quartermaster or top management about everything is ponderous. One of the worst anxieties for booth people is whether or not they will be allowed to drive in when they arrive, and how to navigate the junkyard dog system without feeling bullied. Many craftspeople,

even after decades of participation, get terribly frustrated by the wasted time and effort needed just to get simple answers and to be treated with respect, particularly in the overwork that is the week before Fair.

My feeling is that various committees could be enlisted in this. Craft Committee, for instance, could work with a VAC rep or someone to identify policy paper areas for booth participants, coordinate these with other Fair bodies, and get these elaborations in place. People should have a better idea of how to navigate the Fair systems so they know what to expect and what is behind the responses they are getting.

It took me several years of serving as a volunteer to understand the volunteer perspective, and I see that we have an ongoing problem with the two classes of participants and the assumptions carried by each. We need more of the internal communications that allow us to understand each other's experiences.

Thanks for asking!

Diane McWhorter <dmcwho@efn.org>

6/4/13

Hey there VACer's,

1) I'll begin at the end. Of course we still need this goal. It's always important to keep communication and information exchange happening. Organizations that fail in this regard end up w/disillusioned membership and depleted energy. We have to always know what's going on.

2) Basically I feel that OCF does fairly well in this regard. Because there's a lot to do there will always be some facet of the plan that is behind, usually depending on what's the hot button issue of the day. If we're dealing w/vision fund then some of the other facets will wait till later. Eventually there should be time for each one as it comes up.

3) Most of the projects are still germane. I wonder about the need for path interpreters and guides (except in special circumstances) but website, documentations, reports, social media, maps, mediation, etc. are part of keeping it all together so that the many threads of the fabric interweave in a smooth and enjoyable fashion.

4) I'm not sure we could handle adding anything else at this time because there's quite a bit already within goal #7 but deleting the interpreters/guides would lighten it a tad.

5) Nothing is inappropriate but I can see some consolidations possibilities (History booth audio and archive project for example).

So there's my 2 cents (\$2.50 by today's standards). May we all enjoy a wonderful and loving fair together in 6 weeks. I love you all.

Namaste,

*Percy Hilo*

## **(8) Clarify its priorities and systems for community outreach and philanthropy.**

*Article in the Fair Family News, August 2013 – This is a two-part goal, touching on community outreach and also philanthropy. The original Vision Quest document lists these ways to reach Goal 8:*

*A. The Fair will adopt the following three strategies: Maintain a database of all recipients of Fair philanthropy and our history of giving to those organizations, as best as can be determined; collect copies of correspondence with all recipients of Fair philanthropy; require a report from all recipients of Fair philanthropy on their use of Fair funds.*

*B. The Fair will host an educational meeting for all parties interested in participating in the Marshall Landman Memorial Planned Giving Program.*

*C. The Fair will establish short- and long-range goals for Fair philanthropy.*

*D. On an ongoing basis, the Fair will convene annual meetings of the Board of Directors with the Jill Heiman Vision Fund Committee and the Bill Wooten Memorial Endowment Committee to review Fair philanthropy.*

*These ways to reach Goal 8 appear to address the philanthropy of the OCF organization, but not necessarily its community outreach, except in those cases where community outreach has produced recipients of OCF donations. There has been much local community outreach, however, on the part of Fair staff and volunteers that has resulted in participation in local, Veneta-driven activities, as well as providing a venue for sports events for the region. Through this community outreach, the OCF has become well-respected in the surrounding area. There are other communities to which the Fair could outreach, but these are better addressed by Goal 1.*

*As far as using the listed ways to reach the philanthropy part of Goal 8, the Fair secretary has been maintaining a database of recipients of the OCF board's donation activities as well as corresponding with and maintaining those correspondence records.(A) As of yet, the Fair has not held an educational meeting for parties interested in participating in the Marshall Landman Memorial Planned Giving Program, or established goals for its philanthropy, although the Fair family is given a range of causes on which to vote at the annual meeting (B and C). There has not been an annual meeting of the Board of Directors with the Jill Heiman Vision Fund Committee and the Bill Wooten Memorial Endowment Committee to review Fair philanthropy (D).*

*Goal 8 would appear to be one of the goals that need attention. Remember that part of Goal 8 is to clarify our giving priorities. If the ways developed to reach this goal are not to be used or are insufficient, new ways need to be developed in order to assist the Fair and its Board and officers to clarify its priorities when it comes to philanthropy. Perhaps if the Fair moved forward on Way C: establishing goals for its philanthropy, that clarity could be reached. What do you think dear reader?*

## **Response**

Hi VAC!

In response to your Fair Family News request for input on goal 8—

When we work with our outside accountant each year to fill out OCF's 990, we have to answer the question: "How does your organization monitor that funds donated to other nonprofits are used only for charitable purposes?"

We say that we ask that they are 501(c) (3) orgs, and that we have an application..... But we'd have a much better answer if we said we required a report back from the donee organization after the funds were spent (and if we had a signed agreement with them that said what would happen to the funds if the project were not completed). These report backs could be helpful to the board, as well, in assessing our giving.

I'm referring to all of our giving programs. Thanks for considering this,  
*Hilary Anthony*

## **(9) Improve its organizational effectiveness.**

Article in the Fair Family News, September 2013 – We need to review Goal 9: The following were the suggested pathways to achieve this goal:

1. Review governance documents
2. Evaluate and restructure committees and crews
3. Provide annual meetings with Fair participants and local members of the community
4. Hold an annual review of the OCF goals
5. Hold an annual membership summit to address communitywide concerns.

Have these goals been accomplished to your satisfaction? Let us know.

Meanwhile, rest assured the Fair family is still working to improve organizational effectiveness. From creating a social media team and organizing website information to developing a media archive, the Fair family has some very promising up and coming leaders working alongside elders and longtime family members. Their goal is to earnestly provide an informational system that is easily accessible to all, produce necessary documents and information quickly, and present clear pathways for community members wishing to get more involved or resolve conflicts.

**No Response**

## **(10) Do we need any new Oregon County Fair Goals?**

Article in the Fair Family News, October 2013 - Over the last year the Vision Action Committee (VAC) has given updates and asked for feedback on each of the nine Oregon County Fair goals that were adopted in 2003. Thanks to those who have provided input, the VAC is working on ways to share your comments with the Fair Family. The VAC plans to hold a Family-wide Goals Review Summit Meeting soon to consider modifications to the existing goals, to consider new goals and to present recommendations to the Board of Directors. Details on this gathering will be provided in future issues of the Fair Family News. In addition to updating our existing goals, the VAC would like the Fair Family to consider: "Should any new goals be established?"

### **Responses**

Hi!

Maybe this is already expressed somewhere but, I believe in OCF's role as a demonstrator- whenever possible- of the approach/mentality of "collaborative and community based problem solving" to managing community resource allocation issues as opposed to top down or policy maker down approaches to problem solving.

Best,

jennifer frenzer <jenniferfrenzer@gmail.com>  
10/28/13



Dear Fair Family,

Here is an example of a possible new goal, which could be #10: *“The Oregon County Fair shall promote practices that reduce the carbon footprint of all attendees, vendors and staff. Where possible the Oregon County Fair will use its network to help transform business practices and promote “green behavior” among all we come in contact with.”*

Climate change threatens the very ability of our planet to sustain life as changing temperatures wipe out habitats, change the chemistry of the oceans and threaten vulnerable communities. Only through coordinated partnership with businesses, governments and civil society do we have an opportunity to halt climate change now before the changes to our natural environment are irreversible. The Oregon County Fair is known and loved by millions. Let’s use our clout and circle of influence to make change happen, for the future of our children and life on earth

*Peter Cornelison*  
VAC member

***The Vision Action Committee members responsible for this report***

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