Oregon Country Fair

Vision Action Committee

presents

State of the Vision 2011 report

A yearly report on efforts to work toward the goals of our Vision Quest

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The Past: The Vision and the Quest

We thank Beth Grafe for her vision of the original OCF Vision Quest. We have many volunteers and supporters to thank for working on the Vision Quest task force (VQ) from 2005 to 2008 using extensive outreach within the fair to identify what was important to us as a group. That work resulted in the following 9 goals, approved by OCF's Board of Directors in 2008:

The Oregon Country Fair shall:

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

(2) Maintain and improve our land and facilities.

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

(4) Support artists and entertainers.

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

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

(7) Foster better communication and information exchange.

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

(9) Improve its organizational effectiveness.

This was meant to be a living document, revisited regularly for updating, remodeling, or fine-tuning, as we continue our quest to understand our Vision more fully.

The Present: Stewardship of the Vision

The Vision Quest task force ended with the approval of the 9 goals, then the Vision Action Committee (VAC) was formed by the Board to provide stewardship of our ideals as we look toward our 50th.

As stewards of OCF's Vision, our committee decided we should:

- make the goals more visible to fair family who may not know of this work,
- track projects that work toward our goals while noticing which goals are getting attention and which are not,
- help project champions navigate the process of getting their projects accomplished,
- create bridges of communication between groups working toward similar ends,
- periodically quest to re-Vision our goals and ideals using extensive fair outreach, and
- report yearly about the state of the Vision and any recommendations we have.

We have been striving to give more exposure to the fair's goals. It is our hope that they will be held up as ideals that can be used as a measuring stick in decision-making. This year we created and distributed around 1000 laminates featuring the beautiful poster art on the front and our goals on the back. We also published our goals in the Fair Family News.

To keep our eye on the Vision, we decided to find out what new projects are happening around the fair and which goals those projects are working toward. Our intentions are not to act on the goals but instead to track our progress toward our goals. We hope to keep a light shining on them to keep our group Vision in focus.

It is our intention as a committee to create more connections between groups working on the various projects around OCF by working on this yearly snapshot of how we are meeting our goals and then sharing it among ourselves.

Each year the picture of what is being worked on around OCF will get more colored in. Our report's format may change and our committee's task may evolve as we discover how to best steward our Vision. We endeavor to do all of this with transparency, and we are open to input.

The Future: Continuing our Work

This year's Vision Action Committee work will be focused on updating our goals. We plan to do that by having a fair family forum in the spring of 2012, as we plan to do every few years. We intend to once again reach out far and wide to as many fair family as we can. We hope to get participation from all corners of the fair, from teens to elders and from new to longstanding fair family members.

We are starting a fair-wide discussion of OCF's ideals. Are all our most important ideals represented in those goal statements? Is there anything missing? Is each statement a single clear idea? Are they worded in a way that resonates well with us? Does it represent our basic values as a group?

We intend to bring up the subject wherever we can, in person, on facebook, by email, and in the Fair Family News. In the Spring of 2012 we will bring together a large group of interested fair family at a meeting to decide on the next iteration of our OCF Vision. When we have a written document that we can largely agree on, we will bring it before the Board of Directors and ask them to approve it as they did in 2008 with our current goal statements.

We were inspired at the Teddy Bear's Picnic when we saw what the teens in Culture Jam left displayed on the side of Alice's. Here it is so that it may inspire further discussion of OCF ideals:

Goals of Culture Jam:

To expand our creativity

To learn from people different from ourselves

To learn from Nature.

To explore the inner life.

To discover ways to take action on what we care about in the world and our communities.

To have FUN!

Revisiting and reassessing our goals, learning about new projects around the fair, getting the word out about our work, doing outreach, and recruiting more people from around the fair to work with us on the Vision Action Committee will keep us busy this year. The following year we hope to focus on how best to be a liaison for project champions.

We invite people to contact us about what projects they are working on and the goals that go with it so that we can add it to our picture of our State of the Vision for next year. We also invite information about how to help project champions navigate the fair. We welcome anyone who is ready to work with us on the Vision Action Committee as we continue this work and fine-tune our processes as a committee. If you would like to join our meetings, email us at VAC@oregoncountryfair.org

State of the Vision report – 2011

Understanding this report:

"**Completed"** projects have been completed and were a one-time activity.

"**Ongoing"** projects are those that have been completed and become an ongoing part of Fair Operations.

"**In Progress"** projects are those that have gained enough progress that completion is expected.

"**Under Discussion"** projects are in discussion serious enough that we expect it to develop into action.

"**Not Known"** means we have not yet learned about any project that addresses that.

We have not mapped regular operational things. Our work represents only new projects. Many projects address more than one goal.

If you have a project that should be on this list, please let us know!

This report does not cover projects without champions, even if the projects are great ideas such as a fair-wide radio station or post-fair garden gleaning.This report only contains projects that have project champions and are under serious discussion at the least.

Here is this year's portrait of how we are meeting our goals:

Goal 1 - Increase the diversity of all aspects of the Oregon Country Fair community

In Progress projects in Goal 1

Integrating 4A with Fair Operations - *Increases diversity of Fair by allowing persons of varying physical ability levels to participate in operations*

Path interpreters for fair goers with auditory limitations - *Makes Fair more welcoming to those with auditory disabilities*

Rickshaws as alter-abled transport - *Makes alter-abled visitors feel more included by giving them a classy ride. There were 3-4 used at the 2010 fair and kinks are being worked out.*

Media purchasing - *Purchasing advertising in ethnic marketed publications and printing posters in different languages.*

Goal 2 - Maintain and improve our land and facilities

Completed projects in Goal 2

The Biodiesel conversion in trucks and generators – *Move to a sustainable fuel resource that also keeps the engines running cleaner.*

In Progress projects in Goal 2

Master map update - *Development of GIS database for the fair. Better maps provide for better planning*

Shower development -*Improves our facilities for Fair Family members. The rebuild of Flowing Notes Shower facility was completed and the showers were utilized in 2010*

Peach Power Demonstration Solar Array - *Expand Solar Photovoltaic demonstration project to full 5 KW design capacity. Currently looking for Project Manager.*

Increasing the number of hand washing stations - *Direct improvement to facilities and improves health of all participants*

Increasing the number of women's urinals – *Direct improvement to facilities and improves health of all participants while decreasing wait time*

Under Discussion projects in Goal 2

The Community Center/Upland Kitchen - *Move kitchen for use during the Fair and for a wide variety of Fair Family and local community events in the off-season.*

Path Planning expansion - *Provides new and replacement booth and performance space. Develops new emergency exits. A survey was taken at the 2010 OCF relating to path planning expansion to get fair family input. A new childcare center has been approved and will be started in 2011.*

Rebuild 6-pack outhouses – *a new 6-pack was completed and used at the 2010 OCF. Current 6-packs are being progressively rebuilt.*

Goal 3 - Steward our lands in accordance with ecological standards

Completed projects in Goal 3

The Biodiesel conversion in trucks and generators – *Move to a sustainable fuel resource that also keeps the engines running cleaner*

Under Discussion in Goal 3

Install demonstration Composting/Humanure toilet - *Learn how to deal with our waste effectively and responsibly*

Ongoing projects in Goal 3

Provide and use reusable water containers - *Instead of disposable plastic bottles. Water spigots were added to water stations in 2010 to encourage use of reusable bottles.*

In Progress projects in Goal 3

The composting project – *Process our own waste rather than send it offsite.*

Expand use of durables, plates, cups and tableware – *Increase use of reusable plates, cups, and silverware, and decrease use of disposables. Use of reusable silverware throughout the fair is almost complete.*

Develop modular showers – *Expand usable showers in neighborhoods, avoid dependence on rentals.*

Peach Power Mycoremediation project – *Research in processing compost*

Peach Power Demonstration Solar Array - *Expand Solar Photovoltaic demonstration project to full 5 KW design capacity. Currently looking for Project Manager.*

Goal 4 - Support artists and entertainers

Completed projects in Goal 4

Shower development - *Shows appreciation for our performers. 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.*

Under Discussion projects in Goal 4

Community Center - *Provides a venue for off-season performances, classes, and practice*

Enhancements to Entertainment camping - *Shows appreciation for our performers,the entertainment fire pit area is a priority.*

Goal 5 - Create participatory events and experiences that attract and include more youth and elders

Ongoing projects in Goal 5

History Booth audio archive -*Record oral histories of Fair participants*

Social Media Team - *Attracts more youth and connects more Fair Family of all ages. Facebook and other social media outlets are being utilized*

Intergenerational Dialogue - *Gives youth and elders an opportunity to collaborate on issues relating to each group*

Still Living Room -*Still Living Room is about Fair history for all to see and a place for elders to gather*

Path Planning expansion - *A new childcare center was approved and will start development in 2011.*

Under Discussion projects in Goal 5

Community Center/Upland Kitchen - *Move kitchen for use during the Fair and for a wide variety of Fair Family and local community events in the off-season*

Path Planning expansion – *Develop new public area and provide a more quiet experience to allow elders to get out of the rush.*

Goal 6 - Support a healthy and dynamic culture for participation by volunteers and members

Completed projects in Goal 6

Showers at Zenn Acres - *Improves life for volunteers and enhances their experience of the event*

An AED defibrillator for Far Side - *Adds a new and needed feature for a safer event. Our defibrillators increased from 2 to 8 during the 2010 OCF.*

Ongoing projects in Goal 6

Intergenerational dialogue - *Gives Fair Family members of all ages an opportunity to collaborate on issues important to them*

Virtual Sticker Booth - *Provides easier access for Fair Family to accomplish registration tasks online from anywhere*

History Booth audio archive - *Records oral histories of Fair participants*

Media archive - *Makes Fair Family documents more readily accessible to Fair Family*

In Progress projects in Goal 6

Path interpreters -*Allows better participation by all*

Website project - *Allows broader access to volunteers and members*

Shower development - *Supports healthy participation by Fair Family members. Flowing Notes Showers were rebuilt and opened for use at the 2010 OCF.*

Goal 7 - Foster better communication and information exchange

Ongoing projects in Goal 7

History Booth audio archive - *Records oral histories of Fair participants*

Fair Family and Fair-Goer Surveys - *Provides a way to receive information about Fair-goers and Fair Family members*

Humanistic Intervention trainings - *A way to get needed information to Fair Family about interacting with ourselves and the public*

Social media team - *Provides a broader connection for communication and information exchange*

Documenting Jill Heinman Vision Fund activities - *Informing the Fair Family to see where their donation funds are going*

In Progress projects in Goal 7

Master map update -*Provides needed information*

Website project - *Directly provides information exchange*

Path interpreters -*Encourages active engagement in Fair experience*

State of the Vision report - *Helps to communicate the connection between ongoing projects and a long-term direction for the Fair as an organization*

Under Discussion projects in Goal 7

Media archive - S*aves the historical record for reference and for new purposes*

Goal 8 - Clarify its priorities and systems for community outreach and philanthropy

Completed projects in Goal 8

Informational display beside Highway 126 - *Promotes OCF and the date of the next fair*

Ongoing projects in Goal 8

Documenting Vision Fund activities - *Maintains an active connection with where our money went and what good it did*

Social media team - *Provides more ways to reach out to the community*

In Progress projects in Goal 8

Philanthropy display at Fair – Better c*ommunicates our philanthrophic efforts to fair goers*

Goal 9 - Improve its organizational effectiveness

Ongoing projects in Goal 9

Staff capacity analysis - *Evaluates what we can accomplish and what skills we might need*

Social media team - *Provides updates, increases communication and expands the knowledge of OCF in social media*

Fair Family and Fair-goers Surveys - *Provides demographics and information needed for future planning*

Completed projects in Goal 9

Donation reform - *Allows more time for the Board of Directors to deal with the business of the organization*

In Progress projects in Goal 9

Website project - *An update to our ability to consolidate information from many arms of the fair in one place and make it readily accessible*

Master map update - *Developing GIS (Graphic Information System) Database of the OCF site for Fair planning, updating maps to show new property acquisition*

State of the Vision report - *Assists the Oregon Country Fair as an organization in maintaining a cohesive overall approach to its priorities*

Under Discussion projects in Goal 9

Media archive - S*aves the historical record for reference and for new purposes*

Final word

We look forward to the coming year when we collaborate with fair family to once again clarify our ideals and goals as we move toward our 50th anniversary and beyond. This is the time for all of us to envision the future of the fair together

We welcome your input about these goals and the existence and status of any projects that work toward them. Your thoughts about our new and still-developing process as keepers of the vision are also welcome. We intend to do our work with transparency and openness. Your collaboration is welcome. Email the Vision Action Committee (VAC) at VAC@oregoncountryfair.org