

John Alexander



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I want to give back to the safe and inspiring home where, for over 3 decades, I have met family, grown family, and celebrated family, new and old. I run with gratitude for the encouragement I have received from old friends and new acquaintances, appreciation for the magic that seems to grow stronger year-by-year, and a sense of hope that our creative community helps me to maintain day-by-day. I will bring honest positivity to discourse, commitment to work through challenges old and new, and eagerness to harness the new opportunities that are emerging out of our change. I will collaborate to support an adaptive and functioning board, focused on the responsibility to care for and sustain our land, staff, volunteers, event, and organization. I want to help us realize the full potential of our inclusive nature, while preserving the best of our community's traditions and values.

I bring decades of professional experience (<https://klamathbird.org/about-kbo/staff/1-john-alexander>):

- community service,
- non-profits,
- support for grass-roots community-based activism, and
- successes and miss-steps working to increase diversity, equity and, inclusion.

Taylor and I raised our kids in the South Woods, comforted by the Rock'n'Roll of Miss Piggy's and perched on the edge of the Craft Lot / Xavanadu transition into the Fair's magical 8. We camp with our Deadhead family who represents many facets of OCF's community. I work at ComeUnity House in the Village where we share information for the non-profit I founded in the early 90s -- Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO). KBO's diverse crew comes from around the world to share information about bird conservation (<https://youtu.be/aBBEqlav5VU>). We also teach about OCF's work to protect birds and practice sustainable land stewardship. We were among the pioneering partners who helped start the StewardShip and the Fair's wildlife protection crew. During each year's Saturday dawn chorus, we lead a Fair Family Bird Walk for late night meanderers and early morning risers alike (<https://youtu.be/gLXyN7JN5bl>).

My service on the board will come from a space of active listening and sincere contribution to help us maintain the OCF as my daughter described it:

OCF models a novel progressive value transmission, contributes to the persistence and adaption of counterculture values, is motivated by an intention of having a positive influence on the world, and is shaped by a persistent and multi-generational celebration of deviance, alternative lifestyles, experimentation, community, equality, and self-awareness.

Natalie Alexander (2019, UofO Clark Honors College thesis)