

Anthony (AJ) Jackson



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Dear Members of the Oregon Country Fair Community,

Serving as your Vice President and President over the past six years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. This organization has profoundly shaped my journey and inspired countless others. Through periods of celebration, challenge, change, and growth, I have been constantly reminded that the true strength of the Fair lies in its people. Every decision, conversation, and success has been made possible by the passion, generosity, and dedication of this incredible community.

During my time serving this organization, our Board has worked intentionally to transition into a stronger governance board. While this process has presented challenges, it has been essential. We have focused on clarifying the Board's role in providing long-term vision, sound financial stewardship, and organizational accountability, while empowering our staff and volunteers to lead operations. This work has strengthened our organization and fostered a healthier partnership between governance and operations, establishing a solid foundation for the Fair's future.

I am particularly proud of our progress toward creating greater equity within our volunteer community. The Oregon Country Fair thrives because thousands of volunteers dedicate their time, creativity, and energy. Every volunteer deserves to be treated with fairness, consistency, and respect. Together, we have taken significant steps to improve policies, increase transparency, and create more equitable opportunities for participation and leadership across the organization.

At the same time, this work remains an ongoing commitment. Like many organizations, we continue to address complex questions regarding how we build a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and positioned to thrive. I am proud that the Board has embraced its responsibility to lead these conversations, establish clear priorities, and support meaningful change with humility, active listening, and courage.

Looking ahead to another term, my primary goal is to support and develop the next generation of Fair leadership. A successful organization must cultivate new leaders who bring fresh perspectives while honoring our core values and traditions. I believe my experience can provide stability during this transition while making space for emerging voices. True leadership is about preparing others to lead when their time comes.

For more than five decades, the Oregon Country Fair has evolved while remaining rooted in creativity, community, stewardship, and joyful expression. I am excited about our trajectory and believe our best years are still ahead.

The success of the 2026 Fair is a beautiful testament to what we can accomplish together. I want to express my deepest gratitude to our exceptional staff, the volunteers who dedicated their time and energy, our artisans, entertainers, food booth operators, crews, and everyone who helped create this year's event. Your dedication is the reason the Fair continues to inspire generations.

It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve as your President, and I am deeply grateful for your trust. I would be honored to continue serving on the Board of Directors as we build on our progress, support new leadership, and ensure the Oregon Country Fair continues to flourish.

Sincerely,

Anthony (AJ) Jackson