

Felicia Kirsch



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It has been an honor to serve on the Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors after being appointed to fill the vacancy following the passing of a beloved board member. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I am asking for your vote to continue that service in an elected term.

My involvement with the Fair extends beyond the Board. Over the years, I have worked in food booths and currently help build the Farside Campground. Those experiences have given me a deeper appreciation for the work, dedication, and collaboration that make the Oregon Country Fair possible.

As a small business owner, I bring practical experience that directly supports the work of the Board. I regularly review contracts and leases, oversee accounting and payroll, manage budgets, and make financial decisions that require both immediate problem-solving and long-term planning. That experience has taught me to look closely at the details, ask questions when something doesn't make sense and understand the consequences of the commitments we make.

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to protect the financial health of the Fair, but our responsibility extends beyond finances. We are also stewards of the organization, its values, its community, and the land that makes the Fair possible. As our climate continues to change, we need to prepare to change

with it and must have a plan to keep the Oregon Country Fairgrounds vibrant and healthy. This includes having a strategic plan for when we lose portions of our canopy to the Emerald Ash Borer.

If the Emerald Ash Borer continues to move at its natural rate, we will see it reach the Fairgrounds within the next seven years and potentially much sooner if transported by human activity. I attended several Emerald Ash Borer Task Force work groups. I am excited about the direction the Fair is taking with the Sapling Stewardship Program and its focus on identifying, protecting, and nurturing the young trees that are already naturally establishing themselves on the Fairgrounds. At the same time, we need a plan in place for the time in between the loss of significant, mature Oregon ash trees and when the younger trees are large enough to replace the canopy. Maintaining shade is essential, not only to protect the underlying vegetation and the health of our ecosystem, but also to preserve the character, comfort and quality of the Fair.

During my time on the Board, I participated in the OCF True Allyship training. One of the most important things I took away from the experience is the understanding that I can do better and that so many of us can do better. Growth begins with being willing to listen, learn, reflect and sometimes challenge our own assumptions. Individually, our knowledge is limited. Collectively, there is something divine in what we can create.

As the Fair continues to grow, we must make sure our infrastructure grows with it. That means understanding the true capacity of our property, identifying aging systems before they fail and developing a long-term capital plan that prioritized replacement, accessibility, and resilience. Our responsibility isn't simply to maintain the Fair we inherited; it is to leave the next generation a Fair that is healthy, sustainable and prepared for its future.

I value respectful dialogue, listening to diverse perspectives and working collaboratively to find practical solutions. My goal is to help ensure that the Oregon Country Fair remains financially sound, environmentally responsible, and true to the creativity, community, and values that have made it so special.

I have truly loved serving on this Board and being part of the work that helps shape the future of our Fair. It would be an honor to earn your vote and the opportunity to continue serving this community that means so much to me. I am committed to helping ensure that the Oregon Country Fair we love continues to thrive for generations to come.