

Project Title

Oregon Fiddling --- Exploring Our Oldest, Non-indigenous Music Heritage

Applicant Name

Oregon OldTime Fiddlers' Association - District 7

Contact (Name)

Fred Davis

Title

Treasurer

Project Duration: Start Date

06/01/2023

Estimated Completion Date

12/01/2024

Project Budget

Total Project Budget

\$ 23,000.00

Applicant Cash Match (a)

\$ 2,300.00

In-Kind Resources (b)

\$ 7,700.00

Total Applicant Match (a+b)

\$ 10,000.00

Grant Request

\$ 10,000.00

Provide a project description

American music genres are among the most dominant and popular on a worldwide basis, which include jazz, ragtime, swing, folk, oldtime, roots, bluegrass, country, pop, blues, Western, and many others. The Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association (OOTFA) was formed in 1964 as a nonprofit organization committed to promoting traditional American music played on the violin and other acoustic instruments through music education, performances, and jam sessions.

Wilsonville is within District 7 of OOTFA, and this project would bring a fiddle contest event to the community and 4 public jam session performances. If the grant is awarded, then District 7 has over 80 members who will provide volunteers to perform and to run these events. In addition, District 7 would intend to reach out to Wilsonville's school district to offer several, master lifetime members as guest instructors in some of these music categories to enrich orchestra and other music classes.

How will your project promote arts, culture, history, or heritage in Wilsonville

Oregon's oldest, non-indigenous musical heritage came from traditional music played on the violin usually called a fiddle. Music is part of our arts, culture, and heritage, and the fiddle was the most common musical instrument, having started with explorers and pioneers. The Corps of Discovery had only fiddles on the expedition, played by Pierre Cruzatte and George Gibson. A fiddle was small and sturdy but was also the leading musical instrument to help develop America's unique musical traditions, including jazz, ragtime, folk, and other genres which emphasize improvisation and accompany dancing. Fiddle contests have a long tradition, and Oregon began having such events when the first pioneers came to Wilsonville and other non-indigenous settlements. The Oregon OldTime Fiddlers' Association (OOTFA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit, has established an annual state championship contest qualifying winners for the National Fiddle Championship. Fiddlers in the Wilsonville community have also brought the first

non-adult fiddle contest to Oregon established by the nonprofit Fiddles on Wheels. This grant will allow OOTFA's District 7 (representing Wilsonville and Oregon's northwest region) to organize a fiddle contest and 4 jam sessions open to the Wilsonville community. The events will be held at a Wilsonville venue suitable for such performances, such as the Community Center, the Stein-Boozier Barn, the High School Auditorium, or another facility. Several members of District 7 are experienced music teachers of acoustic instruments for American music genres and will also reach out to the school district to offer enrichment instruction if desired by the schools' music programs.

How will your project benefit the Wilsonville Community?

Traditional music occasionally has been available to the Wilsonville Community, but most of the public is not familiar with the rich heritage that created various American musical genres. Formal music education in schools concentrates on what is termed classical music, dictated in general by music originating in Europe and originally favored by the aristocracy, which depends on precision transcription, instruments playing in unison, avoidance of improvisation, and focused entirely on sheet music. The music on most radio, TV, and streaming services doesn't often concentrate on this traditional culture and heritage either. Although standard music notation has attempted to be applied to jazz, oldtime, blues, and other American music genres, this system can't entirely be used to reproduce the right sound. This project can be the catalyst for the Wilsonville Community to have more exposure to acoustic instruments that have modern and historical adaptation of the unique genres of America traditional music. The project will also be a resource for the school district to enrich the music education classes as well.

What are your organization's goals for this project? (Use measurable data if possible.) How will you know that you succeeded in your goals?

OOTFA's goals are the following: (a) to promote, preserve, and perpetuate Old-Time Fiddling and Old-Time Music; (b) to encourage everyone, especially young people, to play the fiddle and other string and acoustic instruments; and (c) to provide regular times and places to meet, to play, and to appreciate Old-Time Music. This project will assess the impact of 4 public jam sessions, a fiddle contest, and utilization of traditional music teachers by the school district, counting attendance in the case of public events and assessing the evaluations returned to the project from any teachers who decide to utilize OOTFA's master instructors. District 7 has a monthly jam session open to the public at the Sunnyside Grange in Happy Valley that regularly is attended by 30-50 people; an OOTFA-sponsored fiddle contest has had at least 100 attendees for the established, annual event; and OOTFA's programs with local schools are usually highly praised in evaluations from the music educators. These benchmarks can be utilized to provide measurable data for the success of the project.

If this is an annual event for which you have received Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant funding in the past, what new or expanded attractions or partners have been added? (Please note: annual events must add attractions or partners in order to be eligible for grant funding.)

This project will be new programs and haven't received prior City grants.

How are you/your organization suited to produce this project/program? Provide the community resources that will be used if applicable (volunteers, local vendors, local contributions, etc.)

Volunteers will come from the 120 members of OOTFA's District 7 in the Oregon counties of Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Hood River, Washington, and Multnomah, as well as some out-of-state members of District 7 from Clark County in Washington State. Experienced impartial judges will come from the US Pacific Northwest. A longtime member of our District 7 has successfully organized the Oregon State Fiddle contest for the last nine years, which is open to contestants nationwide, and has offered to serve as an advisor with District 7's Vice Chair who also has experience with fiddle contests and who resides in neighboring West Linn, for organizing a fiddle contest located in Wilsonville. We will be utilizing ONLY Wilsonville-located building facilities, hotels, caterers, and other services whenever possible. Our OOTFA District 7 musicians have played (paid gigs) for multiple groups and events in this area, including the Oregon Historical Society, Clackamas County Fair, Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers in Champoeg State Park, multiple nursing and retirement homes, and other venues for more than 40 years. For the past several years, District 7 has organized a monthly, public jam at the Sunnyside Grange in Happy Valley. Also, we have at least 5 master instructors who could be called upon by District 7 to participate in enrichment sessions with Wilsonville's public school music teachers.

Project Budget

This budget provides the detail of the project that the grant funds will be applied to. This should include how the funds from this grant will be spent. Expenses must be explicitly defined. Please include in-kind and cash match.

in kind/cash match

| Income Sources | Amount |
|---|--------------------|
| grant contribution for fiddle contest | \$5,000.00 |
| contributions from other OOTFA Districts to support contest | \$2,000.00 |
| admission fees and donations at contest | \$1,000.00 |
| donation of use of equipment and cash | \$1,100.00 |
| grant contribution for 4 public jam sessions | \$4,000.00 |
| grant contribution for public music school enrichment | \$1,000.00 |
| donation of copying and office supplies | \$500.00 |
| labor for contest, school instruction, and jams | \$5,400.00 |
| charitable grants (Kielhorn and others) | \$3,000.00 |
| Total Project Income | \$23,000.00 |

| Expenses - Must be specifically itemized | Amount |
|---|--------------------|
| judges fees and lodging for contest | \$4,000.00 |
| sound system rental | \$700.00 |
| facilities rental | \$4,000.00 |
| labor for contest, school instruction, and jams | \$5,400.00 |
| copying and office supplies | \$1,000.00 |
| administrative labor | \$2,000.00 |
| contestant awards at fiddle contest | \$5,000.00 |
| promotional materials | \$900.00 |
| Total Project Expense | \$23,000.00 |

Organization Budget

This budget shows how this project fits into your organization. The project should be shown as a line in this budget.

Fiscal Year: 7/1/2022 to 7/23/2023

| Income Sources | Amount |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| new Wilsonville project | \$23,000.00 |
| dues | \$8,500.00 |
| Districts contribution | \$4,500.00 |
| convention | \$8,500.00 |
| contest | \$5,750.00 |
| misc. under \$1,000 | \$3,950.00 |
| | |
| | |
| Total Organization Income | \$54,200.00 |

| Expenses | Amount |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| new Wilsonville project | \$23,000.00 |
| accountant | \$1,275.00 |
| contest | \$8,000.00 |
| convention | \$7,500.00 |
| insurance | \$2,700.00 |
| newsletter | \$6,240.00 |
| misc. under \$1,000 | \$5,485.00 |
| | |
| Total Organization Expense | \$54,200.00 |