

Project Title Wilsonville Youth Fiddle Contest

Applicant Name Oregon Old Time Fiddlers' Association District 7

Contact (Name) Tom Clausen

Title OOTFA District 7 President

Project Duration: Start Date July 2026

Estimated Completion Date December 2028

Project Budget

Total Project Budget \$ 17,000.00

Applicant Cash Match (a) \$ 4,850.00

In-Kind Resources (b) \$ 4,150.00

Total Applicant Match (a+b) \$ 9,000.00

Grant Request \$ 8,000.00

Project Narrative Questions

Provide a project description

American music has shaped global culture, with genres such as jazz, ragtime, swing, folk, old-time, roots, bluegrass, country, pop, blues, and Western music reaching audiences worldwide. The Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association (OOTFA), founded in 1964, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional American music played on the violin and other acoustic instruments. Its mission is carried out through education, performances, and community jam sessions.

Wilsonville lies within OOTFA's District 7. This project would cover two annual youth fiddle contests in the community, one in summer 2026 and then again in summer 2027. If the grant is awarded, District 7's more than 80 members will volunteer as performers and event staff.

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

traditional fiddle music is one of Oregon's oldest non-Indigenous musical heritages. Early explorers and settlers carried fiddles with them because they were portable,

durable, and central to community gatherings. Even the Corps of Discovery traveled with fiddles, played by Pierre Cruzatte and George Gibson. These instruments helped shape America's distinctive musical traditions—jazz, ragtime, folk, and other improvisation-driven genres that supported social dancing and community connection.

Fiddle contests have been part of Oregon's cultural landscape since the first non-Indigenous settlements, including those in and around Wilsonville. The Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association (OOTFA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, continues this heritage through its annual state championship contest, which qualifies winners for the National Fiddle Championship. Wilsonville-area musicians have also contributed to this legacy by establishing Oregon's first youth-focused fiddle contest through the nonprofit Fiddles on Wheels.

This grant will enable OOTFA's District 7—representing Wilsonville and the broader northwest region—to bring a community fiddle contest to Wilsonville. Events will take place at an appropriate local venue, such as the Wilsonville Community Center, creating opportunities for residents to experience, learn about, and participate in a living part of Oregon's musical history.

How will your project benefit the Wilsonville Community?

Traditional American music has only occasionally been presented in Wilsonville, and many residents are unfamiliar with the deep cultural heritage behind genres such as old-time, blues, folk, and early jazz. This project expands access to these traditions by bringing live performances, acoustic instruments, and participatory events directly to the youth of the community.

The project will also complement and enrich local music education. While school programs often focus on classical repertoire, students rarely have opportunities to learn about American vernacular styles or the improvisational techniques that shaped them.

By creating new entry points for all ages—listeners, learners, and aspiring players—this project strengthens community connections, supports intergenerational arts participation, and helps keep Oregon's traditional musical heritage alive and thriving in Wilsonville.

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

During this grant cycle, we aim to grow participation of both contestants (by 10%) and audiences (by 30%). We can do this by measuring year over year participant counts in

2026 to 2027 (which will both fall within the 18-month grant cycle.) We can do this with more community outreach, performances, and promotions.

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 year, the project will significantly expand its reach and community impact. We plan to introduce live-streaming of the fiddle contest and selected performances, making the event accessible to residents who cannot attend in person. In addition, we intend to bring small live performance sets into the community—such as the library, local schools, and assisted living facilities—to share traditional music with audiences who may have limited access to live arts experiences.

We are also exploring new partnerships with Wilsonville-area fairs and festivals to broaden visibility and encourage year-round engagement with traditional American music. These additions meaningfully extend the project beyond previous years and create more ways for Wilsonville residents of all ages to connect with the music and its heritage.

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.)

District 7 of the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association (OOTFA) is well equipped to produce this project. Our district includes more than 120 members across Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Hood River, Washington, and Multnomah counties, as well as several members from Clark County, Washington. These volunteers provide the personnel needed to plan, staff, and perform at the event.

District 7 also brings proven experience in contest organization. One of our members has successfully directed the Oregon State Fiddle Contest for the past two years—an event open to contestants from across the country—and now serves as co-director of Oregon's youth fiddle contest. With this level of leadership located in neighboring West Linn, we are well prepared to organize a Wilsonville-based contest.

Whenever possible, we will use Wilsonville businesses and facilities—including venues, hotels, catering, and event services—to ensure that project spending benefits the local economy.

Our musicians have performed for more than 40 years at regional events and

institutions such as the Oregon Historical Society, the Clackamas County Fair, the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers at Champoeg State Park, and numerous retirement and care communities. District 7 also hosts a long-running monthly public jam at the Sunnyside Grange in Happy Valley, demonstrating our reliability, community ties, and commitment to accessible music-making