

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

POC: Thomas Clausen, Oregon Old Time Fiddlers' Association District 7 Chairperson
t.b.clausen@gmail.com
408-402-2283

Project Dates: July 29, 2023 - October 18, 2025

Project Summary:

The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers' Association (OOTFA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving and perpetuating Old Time Fiddling and Old Time Music and to encourage everyone to play the fiddle and other acoustic stringed instruments and appreciate Old Time Fiddling and Old Time Music. The Wilsonville Arts, Culture and Heritage Commission grant funded OOTFA to conduct youth fiddle contests and other events involving young musicians and music teachers and families from across region. Together, dozens of OOTFA volunteers contributed hundreds of hours planning, managing, and coordinating these events.

List Activities and Elements of Project:

July 29, 2023 - Youth Fiddle Contest - Wilsonville Community Center

October 21, 2023 - Fiddle Workshops & Jam Session - Wilsonville Community Center.

May 19, 2024 - Fiddle Jamboree - Charbonneau Clubhouse

July 27, 2024 - Youth Fiddle Contest - Wilsonville Community Center

Oct. 12, 2024 - OOTFA Jam Session - Wilsonville Memorial Park Forest Shelter

Oct. 19, 2024 - OOTFA Jam Session - Wilsonville Harvest Festival

May 1, 2025 - OOTFA Performance - Wilsonville Volunteer Appreciation Event

Aug. 13, 2025 - OOTFA Performance - Senator Wood's Memorial Service

Aug. 16, 2025 - Fiddle Contest - Wilsonville Community Center

Oct. 18, 2025 - OOTFA Jam Session - Wilsonville Harvest Festival

Were Goals Achieved? How?

These events supported young musicians, music teachers, student musician families, members of OOTFA, and all interested general public. The experiences brought together musicians of all ages and from different musical traditions to play and learn from each other. While playing music together is, for many novice musicians, daunting and even a tad scary, events such as those sponsored by this grant provide opportunities for musicians to play together in an enriching and supportive environment. The contest, jam sessions and other activities supported by this grant contribute to OOTFA's main goal, of promoting, preserving and perpetuating Old Time Fiddling and Old Time Music.

Who Benefited?

1. Everybody who attended. All events were free and open to the public. Each contest welcomed nearly a hundred attendees who came to Wilsonville from throughout NW Oregon and SW Washington.
2. Fiddle contest participants: Three age divisions (under 8, 9-12, and 13-19). 55 players total taking home \$4530 in total prize money encompassing all three contests.
3. Area music teachers conducted lessons and workshops, meeting new prospective students.
4. Attending musicians learned about OOTFA scholarships and other programs to support their development and expand their opportunities to play together and perform.
5. Participating OOTFA musicians met new and younger musicians and worked together on improving their craft and art by jamming and playing with each other. Everybody's repertoire improves when we learn each other's tunes.

How does OOTFA anticipate funding future projects?

OOTFA anticipates planning and executing future music events and will continue to press the case for supporting young musicians in whatever ways we can construe. We expect to find partnerships and supporters everywhere we turn.

Income and Expense Statement

Income Sources	
City of Wilsonville Arts and Culture Grant	\$9,000
OOTFA Kielhorn Grant	1,500
Total	\$10,500
Expenses	
Three Youth Fiddle Contests Awards	4350
Facilities Rental	3220
Judges and Teachers	2450
Other (Printing, Sound, Refreshments, Incidentals)	300
Total	\$10,500