



Willamette Heritage Center and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Win 2012 AASLH Award of Merit

For Immediate Release

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has announced that the Willamette Heritage Center (WHC) and the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are the recipients of a 2012 Award of Merit from AASLH's Leadership in History Awards.

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 67th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. The award is presented for excellence in history programs, projects, and people when compared with similar activities nationwide.

The award was given for the exhibition *Grand Ronde's Canoe Journey*, which was featured at the Willamette Heritage Center from April 8 to May 30, 2012. This exhibition explored the cultural importance, both historic and contemporary, of the canoe to the Native Peoples of the Willamette Valley. It addressed the canoes themselves, the role of the canoe in the historic life of the Native community, and the contemporary role of the "canoe journey."

The WHC also incorporated an active workshop during the exhibition's run where members of the Grand Ronde tribe carved a shovelnose canoe for the first time in living memory. Visitors had the opportunity to chat with canoe builders and watch the progress of the vessel. The canoe went home to the reservation after the exhibit closed as a symbol of their restored tribal tradition.

For more information about the exhibition, *Grand Ronde's Canoe Journey*, please visit http://www.willametteheritage.org/special_feature_canoe.html or contact Keni Sturgeon, Curator and Museum Director, at 503-585-7012 or kenis@willametteheritage.org.

For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203 or visit www.aaslh.org.

For high resolution photos, please contact Cheryl Clark at 503-3711279 or cclark@auramarketing.com.

The Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill*, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit www.willametteheritage.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###