

Coos County Cultural Plan

Revised December 2011

**Originally prepared by founding members of the
Coos County Cultural Coalition Planning Committee
in December 2004**

2011- 2012 Coalition Members

Teri Albert, community volunteer & arts columnist (three year term expires June 30, 2014)

Pam Chaney, Treasurer, Pacific School of Dance and Dance Umbrella for South Coast Oregon (three year term expires June 30, 2013)

John Griffith, former Coos County Commissioner (three year term expires June 30, 2012)

Robin Jenkins, Coos Art Museum (three year term expires June 30, 2014)

Jean Kyle, Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation (three year term expires June 30, 2014)

Crystal Landucci, community volunteer (three year term expires June 30, 2012)

Jim Montalbano, Chair, community volunteer (two year term expires June 30, 2013)

Robert Sasanoff, 1st Vice-Chair, Coos County Historical Society (three year term expires June 30, 2014)

Gary Sharp, Recording Secretary, Coos County Library Services District (three year term expires June 30, 2012)

Cory Smith, 2nd Co-Vice Chair, Oregon Coast Music Association (three year term expires June 30, 2014)

Nancylee Stewart, Department of Human Services - Child Welfare
(two year term expires June 30, 2013)

Copies of this report are available by writing to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The beauty of Oregon's south coast is as inspiring today as it was when the earliest settlers arrived. Man's desire to enjoy and live in this richness has been, and is, reflected in the region's many and varied cultural treasures. Today we have an opportunity to preserve, protect, and promote the area's cultural resources as part of our past and future.

The formation of the Oregon Cultural Trust has been the catalyst to create a cultural plan for Coos County. With this in mind, the Coos County Cultural Coalition Planning Committee was organized with members from throughout the cultural community. The committee's task has been to develop a County Cultural Plan as directed by the Oregon Legislature through the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Five well-publicized, open meetings were held to elicit community response, and enlist the participation of volunteer committee members.

Once assembled, the committee met regularly to create organizational by-laws, and develop a countywide cultural inventory. This inventory, in database form, will serve to identify and promote culture as a vital part of south coast living. Cultural entities and the public were encouraged, through direct contact and media ads, to make input into the inventory. Cultural inventory survey forms were made available and widely circulated. Sub-committees were organized in the fields of art, heritage, and humanities to assist in gathering data.

As the committee gathered and evaluated the data, there clearly emerged a broad spectrum of existing culture support organizations and activities, with few collaborative efforts. Clear priorities became evident:

1. Increase appreciation of and participation in culture as a community value.
2. Promote access to culture.
3. Increase public understanding of the connection between nature and Coos County culture.
4. Support and promote coalitions between cultural entities.
5. Identify, preserve and promote county heritage.
6. Create a structure to gather, organize and disseminate information about culture.
7. Work toward increased funding for the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Coos County Cultural Coalition
8. Streamline and improve the grant process with the following strategies:
 - (1) Additional opportunities for grant applications to the public
 - (2) Grants to clearly state outcomes and a report mechanism
 - (3) Utilize the Coos County Cultural Coalition website and promote its availability
 - (4) Survey the previous year's grant recipients for feedback
 - (5) Look for models across the state

These priorities, aligned with benchmarks and performance measures are the framework of the Coos County Cultural Plan and are detailed further in the plan.

The inventory database will mature into a County Cultural Directory for easy access and cultural development.

Cultural diversity thrives in Coos County. Residents feel strongly about coastal living and clearly recognize the role culture has and will have in the future.

VISION STATEMENT

The Coos County Cultural Coalition seeks to preserve, protect and promote a lively and meaningful cultural experience within Coos County.

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

When the Cultural Coalition Planning Committee began developing an inventory of cultural assets in Coos County, it was with the goal of being as inclusive as possible. The committee members agreed that in order to produce a cultural plan that was truly reflective of the rich and diverse culture of the county, there would be a need to gather public input while completing this process in a timely manner.

To this end, an inventory form was drafted that was user-friendly and easily accessible. The form was simple, concise and made available at various locations throughout the county, including the county public libraries, museums, galleries, community theaters, dance schools, college campus sites, local businesses and other public places where the committee felt people interested in this project would come into contact with the forms.

In conjunction with posters and forms being placed around the community, a press release was sent to the local media to explain the inventory and its role in drafting the cultural plan. With hopes of maximizing community response, the committee appropriated a portion of their budget to purchase display advertising featuring the form in a "clip and mail" design. These ads ran in all county newspapers during the month of September, 2003. A post office box was made available to receive completed forms from the public. The inventory form was also posted on the county website for an online response option.

The committee members worked on the collection of inventory forms by inputting data into a spreadsheet for distribution to committee members. Assessment of the data revealed what the planning committee agreed was a comprehensive, yet unfinished, picture of the rich and diverse cultural resources throughout Coos County. An ongoing effort to expand, maintain and publish the inventory for use as a cultural resource emerged as a priority. The attached cultural inventory remains a work in progress.

Several key issues were highlighted during the inventory process that also helped the committee form priorities and strategies. A lack of communication between cultural entities was identified as an obstacle to the coordination of cultural activities. What the committee discovered through this evaluation was a strong will to overcome isolation, form partnerships, and promote coalitions of organizations to facilitate growth and stability in all areas of county culture.

The members of the Coos County Cultural Coalition will make a collective effort to inventory cultural organizations in Coos County.

PRIORITIES, STRATEGIES, BENCHMARKS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The **priorities** in this plan were developed purposefully to address the cultural needs of Coos County while emphasizing aspects unique to this area. Each priority is regarded as equally important with the intent of giving preference to those grantees addressing multiple priorities in the grant application process.

Strategies were developed knowing that the implementation of many were dependent on receipt of funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. In order to stay open to creative solutions for meeting the cultural development needs of the county, the language used to define strategies was deliberate so that the Coalition would not be overly restricted while at the same time providing appropriate structure for the Coalition to meet its objectives.

Quantitative and qualitative **benchmarks** are stated for each priority. It is the responsibility of the Coalition to review its grant awards annually to assess progress made. Benchmarks serve as a tool to help the Coalition stay on course, however, it is evident that measuring progress, both qualitatively and quantitatively, will be initially difficult without sufficient baseline data from cultural organizations. The Coalition may choose to spend some time establishing baseline evaluations where necessary for the purpose of measuring progress.

Note: The following priorities are not weighted by the order in which they are listed.

I. Increase appreciation of and participation in culture as a community value.

A. Strategies

1. Finance children's arts, heritage and humanities programs (Pre-school through 12) such as artists-in-residence programs, traveling performers, or heritage interpreters, through the school or through agencies or organizations that are outside the school setting, with funds distributed by the Cultural Coalition through a grant application process.
2. Promote peer education to more fully utilize existing human resources in the county for cultural development.
3. Facilitate family involvement in cultural activities to improve cross-generational sharing of cultural experiences.
1. Promote cultural exchange between generations by supporting cultural programs that bridge age groups.
2. Support non-school organizations and agencies that provide training and mentoring opportunities to young people in arts, heritage, and humanities activities.
3. Finance cultural programs for adults such as author talks, poetry readings, concerts, storytelling performances, and others, to expose the public to the wealth of cultural resources in Coos County and to increase public awareness as to the importance of those resources to community life.

B. Quantitative Benchmarks

1. Increase exposure to and attendance at culturally diverse events and activities by 10% annually. Track audience size and demographics when possible to monitor change.
2. Track the increased number and choices of cultural events and activities that are made available through Cultural Trust funding.

C. Qualitative Indicator of Success

1. Respectful exchange and appreciation of intergenerational heritage through exhibits and presentations.
2. Increase intercultural understanding by documenting and preserving the experiences of living in Coos County.

II. Promote access to culture.

A. Strategies

1. Finance training and performance programs for individuals and groups with funds distributed by the Cultural Coalition through a grant application process.
2. Identify opportunities and barriers to participation in cultural activities and support projects that address them.
3. Subsidize tickets, transportation, childcare, etc. to increase attendance at cultural events and activities.
4. Subsidize access to either profit or non-profit groups to encourage a broad spectrum of opportunities for cultural experiences.

B. Quantitative Benchmarks

1. A minimum of four existing cultural entities is strengthened by increased participation within the organizations and/or increased attendance at events sponsored by the entities.
2. One to ten new cultural entities are created that prove successful at removing barriers to participation.

C. Qualitative Indicator of Success

1. New and diverse audiences respond enthusiastically to cultural opportunities.

III. Increase public understanding of the connection between nature and Coos County culture.

A. Strategies

1. Foster research in the unique environs of Coos County as they relate to its cultural heritage and impact future cultural development.
2. Support programs that emphasize the connection between the people of Coos County and the natural world.

B. Quantitative Benchmarks

1. Increase annual participation by 10% in outdoor programs to reflect a growing interest in learning about Coos County nature and the desire to experience it.
2. Preserve existing programs and initiate three new programs that encourage people to relate to the natural world in Coos County.

C. Qualitative Indicator of Success

1. Inspire and encourage continued personal involvement in outdoor cultural activities.

IV. Support and promote coalitions between cultural entities.

A. Strategies

1. Encourage public/private partnerships that seek to work cooperatively to achieve goals.
2. Sponsor networking activities to diminish conflicts and duplication of effort between groups and organizations, which would maximize the effectiveness of the entities' work.
3. Encourage partnerships between libraries, schools, historical agencies, tribal organizations, arts organizations, and/or youth groups such as Boys and Girls Club, or others, for the purpose of reaching out to actively engage youth.
4. Encourage partnerships between Latino or other ethnic groups and other arts, heritage, or humanities groups, to present programs or activities that promote understanding between peoples.

B. Quantitative Benchmark

1. Form three new coalitions that work effectively toward cultural goals.
2. At least one partnership of groups or agencies will organize and present cultural programs or activities annually and track the number of young people participating in those programs as a result of formation of the partnership.

C. Qualitative Indicators of Success

1. Strengthen relationships between organizations by improved communications and conflict resolution.
2. Improve coordination of cultural events that reduces scheduling conflicts and lessens the competition for resources.
3. Form partnerships that continue to function and plan additional coordinated programs or activities involving young people in the process.
4. Achieve more youth participation in County cultural activities as decision-makers, planners, providers, and audience.

V. Identify, preserve and promote county heritage.

A. Strategies

1. Preserve and promote occupational and oral histories, with an emphasis on the county's senior citizens, as important cultural assets.
2. Celebrate and share folk life and folklore through performances, festivals, exhibits, etc.
3. Promote the illustration of architectural and anthropological diversity.
4. Encourage the preservation of Coos County cultural data by indexing local publications, images, and other resources with access to such indexes through publication or electronic distribution.

5. Encourage the commitment of young people to arts, heritage, and humanities so that they will continue their involvement in and advocacy for culture as adults.

B. Quantitative Benchmarks

1. A minimum of twenty-five recordings are created and archived annually.
2. One or more projects of cultural and historical assets will be completed, indexed, and made available to the public annually.

C. Qualitative Indicators of Success

1. Public is accessing images, recordings and indexes.
2. Local heritage is recognized and valued across generations.

VI. Create a structure to gather, organize and disseminate information about culture.

A. Strategies

1. Recruit volunteer staff.
2. Create and maintain a website.
3. Enhance the visibility of Coos County culture both within and outside the county.
4. Maintain, expand, and publish an inventory of cultural assets.
5. Establish a recognizable and accessible location for coalition headquarters.
6. Evaluate and report on benchmarks.
7. Seek and obtain revenue sources.

B. Quantitative Benchmarks

1. Staff is recruited and housed in donated space as headquarters for the Coalition.
2. Website is created during first year, utilized by the public, and linked to at least ten appropriate entities.
3. Cultural inventory is published, regularly updated, and made available to the public.

C. Qualitative Indicators of Success

1. Build audiences through marketing strategies.
2. Integrate the Coalition into the community as a vital resource.
3. Identify at least five additional revenue sources.
4. Procure additional donations for the Coos County Cultural Trust.

STRUCTURE OF THE COOS COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION (By-laws)

Purpose: The Coos County Cultural Coalition shall be organized for the purpose of preserving, protecting and developing the arts, heritage and humanities in Coos County through periodic distribution of grant monies to qualified applicants with funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust and other such funds that the Coalition may obtain. The Coalition will further exist to support those cultural activities that meet the priorities of the Coalition as stated in the Coos County Cultural Plan.

Article 1. Mission

The mission of the Coos County Cultural Coalition is to implement a county-wide cultural plan recognizing arts, heritage and humanities as assets worthy of preserving, protecting and developing as a cultural identity for the county, and fulfill the obligations set out in ORS 359.400 to 359.444.

Article 2. Officers

- A. The Coalition officers shall consist of a Chair, two Co-Vice-chairs, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, elected by the Coalition membership. The officers shall comprise the Executive Committee.
- B. The officers will be elected annually at the first meeting of the fiscal year.
- C. The Coalition Chair, or one of the Co-Vice-Chairs shall preside at all meetings of the Coalition. The Chair shall appoint, under the direction of, and subject to the approval of voting members, all committees. The Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all sub-committees.
- D. The duties of the Chair are as follows:
 - 1. To act as the Chief Operations Officer for the organization;
 - 2. To prepare meeting agendas in cooperation with the Secretary and, committee chairs and members;
 - 3. To conduct meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order;
 - 4. To counsel and advise the board of members to remain on target with the organization's mission statement;
 - 5. To conduct the business of the organization, including contracting for expenses approved by the voting membership.
- E. The duties of the Secretary are as follows:
 - 1. To record minutes of meetings and disperse notes to the voting members;
 - 2. To maintain records of the organization.
- F. The duties of the Treasurer are as follows:
 - 1. To provide regular financial reports to the Coalition at each meeting;
 - 2. To open any deposit or shared account(s) in the name of the Coalition;
 - 3. To endorse checks and orders for the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit in the name of the Coalition, with the signature of a second officer.

Article 3. Members

- A. The Coos County Board of Commissioners will approve all nominations for membership to the Coalition.
- B. The membership of the Coalition shall be composed of representatives as follows:
 - 1. Individuals involved in heritage, humanities and arts, representing as many geographic areas/towns in Coos County as possible.
 - 2. Representatives of public and private cultural entities and philanthropies.
- C. Officers and voting members shall total between 5 and 14 individuals.
- D. The initial term of service shall be staggered as follows:
 - 1. Five members shall serve for one-year terms.
 - 2. Five members shall serve for two-year terms.
 - 3. Four members shall serve for three-year terms.
 - 4. Following the initial term, membership will be a three-year appointment starting on July 1 of each year.
- E. Those persons approved by the State to the Coalition will constitute the voting membership.
- F. Voting members may be "at large," or may have sub-committee chair responsibilities.
- G. The voting members shall approve all expenditures of money from the funds of the Coalition.
- H. When the vacancy of a voting member occurs for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled as soon as reasonably possible at a regular meeting of the voting members. Such appointment shall be by affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining voting members (even if there is less than a quorum), pending approval by the Board of County Commissioners. The voting member selected to fill the vacancy shall serve the unexpired term of the voting member for whom he/she has succeeded.

Article 4. Fiscal Agent

The Coos County Cultural Coalition shall act as its own Fiscal Agent until and unless the Coalition appoints another Fiscal Agent. The fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Article 5. Quorum

At any duly called meeting of the Coalition, one more than half of the total Coalition membership, a simple majority, shall be considered a quorum for the purpose of transacting such business as may come before such meeting.

Article 6. Meetings

- A. The Coalition shall meet as often as it desires, but no less than quarterly, at the call of the Chair or Executive Committee.
- B. The Coalition will review the cultural plan in May of each year, seeking public comment at a minimum of one public meeting.

Article 7. Absence / Loss of Voting Rights

- A. The third unexcused, consecutive absence from duly called meetings of the Coalition constitutes a loss of voting rights. This loss of voting rights will be communicated in writing by the Chair following the absences indicated above. It will be communicated to those individuals that their presence at meetings and service on committees are still welcome, but that they will no longer have a voting membership.

- B. A voting member of the Coalition may lose voting rights for cause. Violation of any code of trade practice, ethics, or fair competition prejudicial to the best interest of the organization would be considered cause. Written charges shall be filed with the voting membership, who shall permit the member so charged a full and complete opportunity to reply thereto and explain or excuse the same. After such hearing, said member may be expelled or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

- C. The voting membership may reinstate a member who has lost voting rights for any reason.

Article 8. Order of Business

The order of business at all regular meetings of the Coalition shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Action upon minutes of previous meeting
3. Reports of Officers
4. Reports of Committee Chairs
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

Article 9. Community Volunteer Participation

In addition to the officers and voting members, all meetings are open to interested community volunteers who may be named to various committees. These volunteers will not be voting members. However, these individuals may be considered for appointment to the voting membership, when vacancies or terms of service occur.

Article 10. Withdrawal

Any voting member of the Coalition in good standing who desires to resign or withdraw may do so by giving notice in writing to the Chair or Secretary of the Coalition. The membership shall accept or confirm said resignation immediately. Such member so resigning or withdrawing shall thereupon forfeit all right and claim to any part of the assets of the organization.

Article 11. Amendments

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting members provided notice of the proposed changes shall have been mailed by the Secretary to each voting member not less than ten days prior to such meeting.

Article 12. Dissolution of Corporation

Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article 13. Advisory Committee

- A. The Advisory committee shall be organized to: help advance the mission of the Coalitions; serve as a link between the community and the Coalition's Executive Committee; assist with publicizing the grant making process; conduct an annual review of the grant making process; and, assist in fundraising for the Coalition.
- B. The Advisory Committee shall be elected by the Coalition's Board of Directors and be composed of no more than seven (7) individuals, including one current member of the Coalition's Executive Committee.
- C. During the initial year, members of the Advisory Committee shall be elected by the Coalition's Board of Directors, and thereafter, recommended by the established membership of the Advisory Committee, with final approval by the Coalition's Board of Directors.
- D. The Advisory Committee members shall serve three-year terms for a maximum of two consecutive terms and may serve additional terms following a one-year hiatus. One and two-year terms shall not be counted in limiting consecutive committee service.
- E. The initial term of service shall be staggered as follows:
1. One member shall serve for a one-year term.
 2. Three members shall serve for two-year terms.
 3. Three members shall serve for three-year terms.
- F. The officers of the Advisory Committee shall consist of a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary with the following duties:
1. The chairperson shall preside over meetings.
 2. The secretary shall announce meetings, take meeting minutes, and distribute meeting minutes and other communications to the Advisory Committee and to the Coalition.
- G. The members of the Advisory Committee are each expected to:
1. Attend a minimum of two meetings per year.
 2. Actively participate in the functioning of the Committee.
 3. Be available for individual consultation to the Chair of the Coalition.
- H. the Advisory Committee shall meet a minimum of three times per year.

GUIDELINES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

1. Notification

The Coos County Cultural Coalition shall give public notice of the availability of funds, and the deadline for grant applications, at the time the coalition learns of periodic commitment of funds by the Oregon Cultural Trust.

2. Eligibility

For the purposes of the Coos County Cultural Coalition, a cultural organization is one that operates with a mission where culture (arts, humanities, or heritage) is central. The Oregon Cultural Trust legislation defines a "cultural organization" as one that is "organized primarily for the purpose of producing, promoting or presenting the arts, heritage...and humanities to the public or organized primarily for identifying, documenting, interpreting and preserving cultural resources."

3. Grant Applications

Grant applications shall be available to interested organizations and/or individuals through the notification process. Completed applications will be reviewed by a panel of Coos County Cultural Coalition members and awards determined by the Coalition as a whole. It is the intention of the Coos County Cultural Coalition that awards be balanced among the three areas of culture: arts, humanities and heritage.

4. Grant Awarding Criteria

When funds are available, the Coalition will award grants on a competitive basis to proposals that:

1. Fulfill one or more of the priorities established in the Coos County Cultural Plan.
2. Result in a demonstrable benefit to county residents and visitors.

The Coalition will use a two-tiered application process designed to encourage applicants to expand their ideas without burdening them with onerous requirements that might dissuade some from applying. In awarding funds, the Coalition will respect the privacy of applicants and the confidentiality of fiscal and proprietary information they submit, to the extent allowed by law.

The Coalition will be alert for fairness and accountability issues. Fairness will include assurance that grants are fairly distributed to individuals and organizations bringing cultural experience to all parts of the county. Accountability will include performance measures to indicate when the promised product has been completed.

The Coalition will have the power to award grants to individuals as well as to organizations. There will be appropriate safeguards to protect the public funds.

Funds may be distributed in installments, and each subsequent installment may be predicated upon the achievement of specified project goals, submission of appropriate reports, or similar appropriate criteria. The Coalition may recall funds if they are misused, the applicant fails to comply with grant conditions, or the projects are abandoned. The Coalition shall have recourse to law to recover misappropriated funds.

Coalition decisions may be made at its discretion and are not subject to appeal. The Coalition will endeavor to provide a brief indication of its reasons for rejecting an application. Unsuccessful applicants may wish to reapply in subsequent grant cycles after asking the Coalition for a confidential, constructive explanation of the basis of their initial rejection.

5. Plan Review and Update

The Coalition will review the plan, in its entirety, annually. This evaluation including the assessment of progress toward benchmarks will be forwarded in a report to the Oregon Cultural Trust.

It may be necessary to make adjustments to the Coos County Cultural Plan as priorities are met, and no longer needed, or new priorities are identified. It is the intent of the Coalition that the plan remains relevant and useful by continual review and appropriate updating.

Any proposed changes to the plan will be made available for public comment before being adopted by the Coalition. Proposed changes to the plan will also be submitted to the Oregon Cultural Trust for review and final approval.

Signature

Title

Date

Signature

Title

Date

Appendix A

Founding Members of the Coos County Cultural Coalition

Blair Holman, First Vice-Chair and Acting Chair, treasurer, Oregon Coast Music Association
Loretta Kramer, Second Vice-Chair, volunteer, community of Bandon
Kathi Walker, Secretary/Vice Chair, president, Dance Umbrella for South Coast Oregon
Doug Fletcher, Chair
Celia Claybourn, Secretary, education, community of Powers
John Griffith, Coos County Commissioner
Carol Ventgen, librarian, Coos County Library Service District
Sharon Lovie, writer, Literary Folklore Magazine
Sarah Recken, Division Director for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences,
Southwestern Oregon Community College
Robert Sasanoff, board member, Coos County Historical Society
Judy McDonald, playwright, Waterfront Players
John Noland, writer, Literary Folklore Magazine
Charles Vincent, watercolor artist
Corinne Potts, student, Southwestern Oregon Community College
Reed Lockhart, director, Coos Art Museum

Appendix B

2004 PLANNING PROCESS

The Coos County Board of Commissioners designated Commissioner John Griffith to lead the county's planning efforts to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 359.400 et seq. State law requires Oregon's thirty-six counties and nine federally-recognized tribes to make plans that identify and prioritize cultural assets, and that set performance standards for recipients of Oregon Cultural Trust grants.

To begin organizing a county cultural planning effort, Commissioner Griffith initially participated in a meeting by the Oregon Cultural Trust on September 26, 2002, in Newport, Oregon.

The Cultural Trust held another planning and educational meeting October 17, 2002, in Bandon, Oregon, attended by the entire Coos County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Griffith organized the first, fully local planning meeting October 28, 2002, at the Coos Art Museum, in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Commissioner Griffith also organized two facilitator-run visioning meetings, to spread the word of the oncoming cultural coalition planning effort in Coos County and to elicit community opinions on what they want a local planning committee to do and what a local plan should look like.

These meetings were held on November 25, 2002, and December 9, 2002 in the Waterfront Playhouse, Pony Village Mall, North Bend, Oregon. A final informational meeting was conducted at the same location on January 20, 2003.

During the period described above, local newspapers ran stories on the topic.

The Board of Commissioners, as required, submitted to the Oregon Cultural Trust, a list of persons interested in serving on a county cultural coalition planning committee. Those names submitted included:

Judy McDonald, Patty West, Blair Holman, Charles Vincent, Loretta Kramer, Reed Lockhart, Larry McCabe, Celia Claybourn, Nancy Dupaire, Chief James Lott, of Confederate Tribes of Coos, Lower-Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Sharon Lovie, John Noland, Carol Ventgen, Bill Laverty, Norma Van Natta, John Griffith (county commissioner) and Doug Fletcher. Others expressed an interest in serving on the committee after the Board of Commissioner nomination period concluded. They were Kathi Walker, Sarah Recken, Bob Sasanoff and Corinne Potts. The Oregon Cultural Trust designated all those persons to serve on the local committee.

The meetings of Coos County Cultural Coalition Planning Committee were as follows:

The first meeting was held on April 2, 2003, at the Coos Art Museum in Coos Bay, Oregon. The committee elected a chairman and vice-chairman, and in the succeeding months adopted bylaws. The succeeding meetings were held on the following dates in the Coos Art Museum: May 7, June 18, July 9, July 29, August 26, September 9, October 14. Two half-day workshops were held during November and December of 2003 to begin the drafting of the priorities, strategies and benchmarks. More regular meetings followed on January 13, 27, and February 10 and 17, 2004.