

Community Disaster Resilience Planning for Heritage Resources

The City of Coos Bay is partnering with Oregon Heritage and the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE) at the University of Oregon to create a **community-wide disaster resilience plan for heritage and cultural resources**. This plan can help to prepare for emergencies, lessen potential disaster impacts, and leverage the capacity of organizations and individuals dedicated to heritage and cultural resource stewardship to build resilience.

Oregon's diverse heritage resources are critical pieces of local communities' cultural history and often overlap as economic drivers, critical infrastructure, and community gathering spaces. The loss of irreplaceable heritage resources from natural and human-caused disasters can be a devastating event to a community both socially and economically. Heritage resources, and the organizations that steward them, can be a critical factor in community recovery and act as an anchor to community identity.

The Blackberry Arts Festival, Downtown Coos Bay, OR



Source: Oregon Coast Beach Connection

WHY?

Build the resilience of heritage and cultural resources against disasters



Coordinate and align historic preservation, natural hazard mitigation, and emergency management practices



Engage community to identify vulnerabilities and community priorities



For more project information, contact:

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Oregon Coast Historical Railway Museum, Coos Bay, OR



Source: The Oregon Coast Visitors Association

This project was made possible through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) which was awarded to Oregon Heritage through the State Hazard Mitigation Office (SHMO). Coos Bay is one of six All-Star Heritage communities from across Oregon that will be a part of this funding grant.



WHO?

The **IPRE project team** consists of faculty members and graduate planning students at the University of Oregon. Our team is partnered with **planning staff from the City of Coos Bay**. Our city partners will help guide the planning process and shape successful project outcomes.

We will collaborate with the City of Coos Bay staff to engage with a **project committee**. The project committee will help provide information throughout the project and share engagement opportunities to their networks. The IPRE team will also provide technical assistance and preparedness training to committee members throughout our project.

Lastly, our IPRE project team will work to engage with the **broader community of Coos Bay**. Our team will provide multiple opportunities to identify community heritage and cultural resources and gather input on community priorities, resource vulnerabilities, and potential resilience strategies.

WHAT?

Our team will work with our partners to create the following key deliverables:

- 1. A community wide disaster resilience plan for heritage resources in Coos Bay.** The plan will describe the current conditions of heritage resources and organizations in Coos Bay, identify their vulnerability to natural and human caused hazards, and create a set a strategies to build resilience.
- 2. Provide training and technical assistance to heritage organizations in Coos Bay.** Organizations engaging with our committee or participating in community events will receive guidance and resources on how to prepare and respond to disasters.

Downtown Coos Bay, OR



Photographer: Rick Green

Project Timeline

July – Aug 2025

- Project kick-off with partners
- Background research & plan review
- Organization engagement
- Interviews
- Inventory & mapping
- Community outreach & engagement
- Community survey

Sept – Oct 2025

- Interviews
- Organization engagement
- Inventory & mapping
- Interviews
- Community outreach & engagement
- Community survey

Nov – Dec 2025

- Community outreach & engagement
- Disaster resilience workshop
- Drafting the plan
- Plan review with partners
- Finalize plan
- Participate in implementation workshop for All-star community partners

Jan – Feb 2026

- Adopt finalized plan
- Implementation support from IPRE and OR Heritage

Continued Resilience
Building Activities 😊