EXHIBITIONS: The Museum’s exhibition program is at the heart of our mission. Mark Tolonen, Curator of Exhibitions, and the volunteers in his department planned, prepared, and installed the following exhibitions in the Museum galleries:

**FIRST FLOOR GALLERY:**

**Oct. 28, 2017-Jan. 20, 2018**  
**Things Come Apart**  
This traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition program featured photographs by Todd McLellan. The exhibition drew 1,844 visitors.

*February 9, 2018-through 2019*  
**Circa 1920: roaring into the modern age**  
Curated from the collections, “Circa 1920” features objects illustrating social, political and cultural movements and happenings from about 100 years ago in local, regional and national history. Themes include World War 1, prohibition, the influenza epidemic, Boy Scout movement and more.

**MORELAND GALLERY:**  
Seven changing art exhibitions were presented from November 2017 through October 2018:

**Jan. 26 - March 3, 2018**  
**TED**  
Woodworking by Ted Chapman and Ted Porter  
Two local woodworkers, now both deceased, were shown in retrospective. Although vastly different in style and technique, this exhibition highlighted the artistic possibilities of working in wood.
March 9 - April 14, 2018

**Beyond Words**
Beyond Words is an exhibition built through collaboration and the creative response of visual artists and musicians to the poetry collection “First Draft: Erratic Musings of a Wanna-be Poet” by Terri Thomas.

April 20 – May 19, 2018

**36th Annual “Art the 4th ‘R’”**

The 36th Annual “Art the 4th ‘R’” exhibition will showcase recent artwork by Philomath School district students K-12.

May 25 - July 7, 2018

**Clay and Canvas: Leslie Green, A 50-year retrospective**

Bears, horses, elephants, wolves, trees, cave art, and landscapes, all inhabit Leslie Green’s body of work over the past 50 years. Beginning with pottery, and ceramic sculpture, then to her present organic, tree-inspired paintings, she explores the human/nature connection in various abstract ways. Nature informs her always evolving creative process.

July 13 – August 18, 2018

**Fresh! From the Corvallis Art Guild**

Members of the Corvallis Art Guild will share artwork “Fresh!” from their studios. Fresh refers in part to work not previously displayed in the Corvallis area. Other definitions and depictions of “fresh” are encouraged, but not required. Perhaps we’ll see fresh fruit, fresh flowers, fresh faces, fresh ideas, or freshly mown! Come be refreshed!
August 24 – Sept. 29, 2018

Artists and Friends
Six Benton County artist/friends who share lunch every week presented a group art exhibition featuring Lee Kitzman, Earl Newman, Rip Cronk, Vince Zettler, Bill Siebler and Ken Haines.

October 5 – December 29, 2018

Painting Oregon’s Harvest: The Art of Kathy Deggendorfer

“For the past several years I’ve traveled the state visiting farms, fisheries, orchards, vineyards, and ranches, documenting through an artist’s eye what makes Oregon such a special place for food production. The result is a stunning bounty of watercolor paintings so vivid that they will make your mouth water. Making its Portland debut, ‘Painting Oregon’s Harvest’ reminds us all of agriculture’s historic role in Oregon’s past, present, and future.” - Kathy Deggendorfer

Loan from Oregon’s High Desert Museum.
COLLECTIONS: The Collections Committee meets regularly to review new gifts and proposed deaccessions. From November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018, the committee accepted 518 items or from 76 donors, including objects, images, documents, manuscripts and published works.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

STUDENT PROGRAMS

School and student groups that toured the museum last year were: Adams Elementary, Dallas Community School, Kings Valley Charter School, Luckiamute Charter School, the Waldorf School, Philomath Elementary School, Avery Nature Center.

Self-guided school tours brought the total number of children served in 2017-2018 to 475 children at the museum. The majority of these children live in rural areas.

We hosted two Story Time events for preschoolers in the Moreland Gallery, in cooperation with the Philomath Public Library.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Our adult educational programming included two Benton Lecture series held in the winter and summer.

Winter lectures included:
Monday, February 26th: Lynne McKee To Catch a Thief: International Art Theft and the FBI Lynne McKee spent 8 years at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC, as their Art Theft Program Manager and shared the real story of illicit trafficking in stolen artwork through actual FBI cases and undercover operations

Monday March 5th: Tiah Edmonson-Morton What does a Brewer Look Like? Documenting women’s history in Northwest brewing. Edmunson-Morton, who is the Archivist for Instruction and Outreach, shared the stories she’s gathered about women working in the beer industry.

Monday March 12th Tom Connolly Kalapuya Archaeology: The Willamette Valley Cultural Record before 1850. Dr. Connolly is the Director of Archaeological Research at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Eugene since 1986. He discussed the devastating effect of introduced diseases into the Willamette Valley’s Native Kalapuya life and culture.

Monday, March 19th, Kay Sagmiller A Sense of Belonging: bringing schools to museums. Dr. Sagmiller is the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Oregon State University.

The Summer “World of Ideas” lectures included:
Monday, July 16th, Dr. Tracy J. Prince of Portland State University’s Portland Center for Public Humanities presented “Native American Art of Oregon” and describe how Oregon Native art distinguishes itself from the art of other tribes of the region.
Monday, July 25th, Rebecca Morris, famed true-crime novelist who grew up in Corvallis, talked about her new book, “Murder in My Hometown” about the unsolved murder case of her Corvallis High School classmate, Dick Kitchel in 1968.

Monday, July 30th, Richard Engeman presented “Lost and Gone: Oregon’s Vanished Structures”. Engeman gave an overview of historic structures in the state that have disappeared; and now what's work keeping and why.


EVENTS: Special events held were: the Philomath Christmas tree lighting ceremony in early December. In May, we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon to honor the museum volunteers and recognize their contributions to the Society; in July the museum participated as a venue in the Philomath Chamber of Commerce Wine Walk. The third annual Family Day was also held in July, with activities and demonstrations themed to the Circa 1920 exhibition. [right: Cool Shooz dancers demonstrate for Family Day]

MEMBERSHIP AND VISITATION: Membership is currently 400 member-households. From November 1, 2017 to October 31, 2018, 7,217 people visited the Museum. Our affiliate organizations meet throughout the year in the Moreland and in the Museum Annex. These include: Marys River Quilt Guild and Benton County Genealogical Society. Annex usage averages 50 people per month, or about 600 people per year.

Other meetings that were held in the Moreland were: the Benton County Cultural Coalition grant workshop in October, Philomath candidates fair, and Benton County Government public safety hearing.

Other adult groups that have toured or met at the museum include: Center for Lifelong Learning, the Grace Center, Willamette Valley Rehabilitation Center, Conifer House, Stoneybrook residents, Albany Walking Group, 55+ Club of Albany, Willamette Springs Memory Care, Home Life Center, Newport Nazarene Church Seniors.

FUNDRAISING for OPERATIONS: Fundraising events included: the annual BBQ picnic held in August on the Museum grounds, and the Fall Online Auction, held in October. From November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018, $157,151 was raised from operations appeals, sponsorships, income from the Ford Family Foundation for a social enterprise grant for our museum stores, endowment gifts and endowment distributions. Donors gave over $58,000 of those funds in memorials and honoraria.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN: The Community Campaign Committee was very active in 2017-18. They organized 14 different dine-out/give-back days from local retailers, and had a presence at community events. Local retailers and restaurants included: Many Hand Trading, Block 15, Papa’s Pizza, Woodstock’s Pizza, Running Princess, Old Spaghetti Factory, Panera, and Baja Fresh. Other events included raffles at two Corvallis Knights games, two Farmer’s Market weekends, with the Whiteside Theatre Foundation a co-sponsored performance of the Teddy Roosevelt Roadshow, organized by Oregon Historical Society and funded by Wells Fargo bank, fundraising at the Corvallis High School Class of 1968 reunion, and a S’mores party at a private home.

STAFF and VOLUNTEERS:
Approximately 60 volunteers are involved in all aspects of the Society’s programs, including collections, exhibitions, fundraising and educational outreach. The Collections department has 20 volunteers working with Collections Manager, Mary Gallagher. These dedicated volunteers donated over 3700 hours last year, unpacking collections objects, entering data in the PastPerfect® database, taking photographs of objects, and making storage mounts and assisting Mark Tolonen, Exhibitions Curator, with exhibitions research and preparation.

I would again like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees and the Museum staff for their dedication and outstanding service to the Society. We are very fortunate to have over 60 regular volunteers working in all areas of the museum program: collections, exhibitions, Board of Trustees, and capital campaign committees. Mary Gallagher and Mark Tolonen of the curatorial staff have done a remarkable job managing our collections, and producing fine exhibitions and working with our many wonderful volunteers. Peter Lee, our new maintenance and facilities manager and Peggy Lee, finance manager, although both part-time employees have devoted themselves to their jobs and done outstanding work in their areas. Terri Thomas as part-time Membership and Fundraising Events Coordinator has improved the on-line auction, solicited new sponsors and managed events, including the very successful Family Day in July. And thanks to part-time staff Jim Michalek, Marcelo Carroci and especially our dedicated Tuesday volunteer, Joyce Nessen, for making our visitors feel welcome. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with this committed museum staff and cadre of dedicated volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Zenev
Executive Director,
Benton County Historical Society & Museum