



• TAMÁSTLIKT •
CULTURAL INSTITUTE

72789 Highway 331, Pendleton, OR 97801 USA

News Release

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**Groundbreaking Cultural Exhibit
Oregon is Indian Country
Arrives at
Tamástslikt Cultural Institute
In November**

Pendleton, OR – Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, will present a special exhibit of Oregon’s Native American Heritage, *Oregon Is Indian Country*, beginning October 29 through February 16, 2009.

A groundbreaking project, *Oregon Is Indian Country*, brought all nine Oregon tribes together to create an exhibit on contemporary indigenous cultures never before assembled in one presentation. In this exhibit, Oregon's Indian traditions are shared utilizing many art forms including native voices, historical artifacts, photographs and more, to produce a powerful exhibition. Antone Minthorn, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservations says, "We have survived the tidal wave of immigration to our country. The American public needs to hear these stories of survival. This place, the United States of America, is our home, but we all have a voice in shaping a legacy for our children."



The exhibit is a direct result of the *Oregon Tribes Project*, a multi-year collaboration between the Oregon Historical Society's Folklife Program and Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes. Tribal members documented their traditions and worked with OHS staff to create the exhibition, educational materials, and public programs designed to educate people about Oregon's contemporary tribes.

"We are proud to have the support of both tribal members and the Oregon Historical Society who have put in countless hours to bring this important chronicle of history to life," said Bobbie

Conner, director of Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute. “The exhibit showcases various text documents as well as historical and contemporary photographs about the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon in three specific topical areas; The Land, Federal Indian Policies, and the Traditions That Bind.”

The Land examines the ways the physical environment has influenced tribal cultures and how it continues to do so today by looking at the uses of natural resources and the enduring ties that tribes have with the land.

Federal Indian Policies explores the policies that changed Indian lives since the first official government exploration into the territory led by Lewis & Clark in 1805. Exhibit visitors will better understand the complexities of current issues affecting Indian Country through this examination of significant historical events and policies such as sovereignty, treaties, the reservations system, termination, and restoration.

Traditions that Bind investigates the rich cultural heritage of Oregon’s tribes, including their oral traditions, material culture, art and traditional lifeways. Many American Indian traditions are experiencing a revival via the traditional passage from one generation to the next as well as through research of oral recordings and historic documents. This section highlights ceremony, tradition, and language, and how they are important in the survival of people and their cultures.

Support for this exhibit is generously provided by Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation; Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund and the Siletz Tribal Council; Spirit Mountain Community Fund;



Wildhorse Foundation; Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library National Endowment for the Arts; Oregon Arts Commission; Oregon Heritage Commission; Collins Foundation; Jackson Foundation; PGE Foundation; and Oregon Council for the Humanities.

For more information on *Oregon is Indian Country* or Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, call 541-966-9748 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org.

Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is located at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton. From Interstate 84 take exit 216 and follow the signs five minutes to Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Coming from the north, take the Mission exit from Highway 11 just northeast of Pendleton and follow the signs for about ten minutes to the Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Tamástslíkt is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to exhibits telling the story of the three Tribes' history and culture, there is also a Museum Store and the Kinship Café. Tamástslíkt is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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For more information: 541-966-9748 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org

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