



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898

THE 2011

HISTORY  MAKERS

DINNER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sue Metzler, 503-306-5229, Sue.Metzler@OHS.org

Oregon Historical Society Names 2011 History Makers Honorees

Portland, OR – April 22, 2011 – Four prominent Oregonians have been selected by the Oregon Historical Society as the 2011 recipients of the History Maker’s Medal. First awarded in 2009, the History Maker’s Medal is presented annually by OHS to individuals who have positively shaped the history, culture, and landscape of Oregon.

The 2011 History Maker’s Medal recipients are:

Ken and Joan Austin: Entrepreneurs, community leaders and philanthropists, the Austins are the co-founders and owners of Newberg-based A-dec, which is the world’s largest manufacturer of dental equipment. The Austins recently brought further national attention and economic development to Yamhill County, when they built the highly acclaimed Allison Inn and Spa. Oregon State University and Special Olympics Oregon are just two of many organizations that the Austins have supported through their legendary philanthropic efforts.

Allyn Ford: Ford is the President and CEO of Roseburg Forest Products, which boasts 650,000 acres of timberlands in Oregon and California, and is one of the nation’s largest privately held forest products companies. Since assuming the helm at Roseburg Forest Products in 1997, Ford has made the company an industry leader in environmental and sustainable timber management.

Dr. Albert Starr: The renowned Medical Director Emeritus of the Providence Heart and Vascular Institute and a Professor of Surgery at the Oregon Health Sciences University, Dr. Starr is the inventor of the world’s first successful artificial heart valve. A past recipient of the prestigious Lasker Award, Dr. Starr also performed the world’s first triple heart valve replacement, and Oregon’s first heart transplant.

Gus Van Sant: An award winning movie director, Van Sant is perhaps best known for his work on such films as *Good Will Hunting*, *Finding Forrester*, and *Milk*.

In announcing the History Maker's Medal recipients, OHS Interim Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk said, "Oregon is richly blessed with individuals who have given their time, talents, and treasures to make a positive difference in the history of our state. Ken and Joan Austin, Allyn Ford, Dr. Albert Starr and Gus Van Sant are iconic Oregonians who have risen to the top in their respective fields, and brought honor to our state."

The History Maker's Medals will be presented at a banquet at the Oregon Historical Society on September 22. Tickets are available through event and table sponsorships. Individual tickets are available on a limited basis.

About the Oregon Historical Society

The Society has served since 1898 as Oregon's primary research collection and museum about Oregon history. OHS has an extensive collection of historical pieces, including over 85,000 artifacts and 3 million photographs and films. It safeguards and presents Oregon's history through a museum, research library, traveling exhibits, school programs and website content.