See THE LAND

See FEDERAL INDIAN POLICIES

See TRADITIONS THAT BIND

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
Oregon Council for the Humanities

Special thanks to:
Perry Chocktoot • Bobbie Connor • Taylor David • Denni Hockena • Kathleen Holt
Don Ivy • Jon Ivy • Myra Johnson • Robert Kentta • Louis LaChance • David Lewis
Dave McMechan • Leslie Mills • Evaline Patt • Theresa Peck • David Petraic • Dean Rhodes
Cara Ungar-Gutierrez • Wil Phinney • Lindy Trolan • Lisa J. Watt • Malissa Minthorn Winks

Exhibit produced under the management of the Oregon Historical Society
Designed by Bryan Potter Design

Cover image: Photo courtesy of Spilyay Tymoo, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
In this day and age, when Oregonians think or read about American Indian tribes, the first image that usually comes to mind are tribal casinos. And rightly so. Tribal casinos are highly visible symbols of a tribe’s contemporary presence. But casinos are a very small part of a much larger, far richer, more interesting story. This exhibit is about us, the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon*, and our ancestors, who have occupied these lands for thousands of years — long before Oregon became a state one hundred and fifty years ago.

Our cultures are extremely rich, as expressed in our languages, histories, and traditions which have nourished us since time immemorial, despite dramatic changes and often against overwhelming odds. Today, our cultures are as diverse as the landscape itself. From the ocean and valleys to the high desert and plateaus, we have adapted to our environments, creating lives that are of this land, just like our ancestors.

Organized by the Folklife Program of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) in close cooperation with all nine tribes, this exhibit explores three themes from our perspective: THE LAND: our connections to the landscape, FEDERAL INDIAN POLICIES: the federal policies that have affected us in both adverse and positive ways, and TRADITIONS THAT BIND: the cultural traditions that continue to nurture us.

To learn more about each of the tribes, please visit our websites, or, better yet, visit our communities. You can also access the tour schedule, learn about related organizations, educational resources, and topics on the OHS website at www.ohs.org.

* Federally recognized means the U.S. government has an existing government-to-government relationship with the tribes. It enables us to apply for funding from federal programs for services such as health, education, and housing. In most cases, these services are guaranteed in our treaties in exchange for tribal land.