



The Museum at Warm Springs

Fact Sheet September 2023

Address/Phone Number:	2189 Highway 26 (street address) P.O. Box 909 (mailing address) Warm Springs, OR 97761 (541) 553-3331 (main number)
Website:	https://museumatwarmsprings.com
Hours:	Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Noon-1 p.m.) Closed Sunday and Monday Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day
Admission:	No charge for Museum Members \$7 Adults \$6 Senior Citizens (60+) \$4.50 Students (13-18) with Student Body card \$3.50 Children (5-12) No charge 4 years old and under Group rates are available. Call (541) 553-3331 ext. 407, (541) 553-3338 (fax) or e-mail: maws@museumatwarmsprings.org
Donate to The Museum:	Visit https://museumatwarmsprings.org/ or call (541)553- 3331 and ask for the Development Office.
Social Media:	Facebook Instagram Twitter
Executive Director (current):	Elizabeth A. Woody Appointed Dec. 10, 2018

Past Executive Directors:	Dr. Duane King (1987-1990) Michael Templeton, Acting Director (1990-1991) Michael Hammond (1991-1999) Mary Ellen Conaway (2000-2001) Carol Leone (2002-2018)
Museum Mission and Purpose:	The Museum at Warm Springs' mission is to preserve, advance and share the traditions, cultural and artistic heritage of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon and other Indigenous peoples. Its purpose is to inform the public about the history and cultures of the Warm Springs people and the material excellence of the Warm Springs community's collections.
Museum Governance:	The Museum is under the leadership of a Board of Directors and Board of Regents.
Employees (Tribal):	The Museum has 3 full-time staff positions. 100% of the staff are Warm Springs Tribal citizens.
Museum Square Footage:	25,000 square feet (Museum building total square footage) 7,500 square feet (Permanent Exhibit Gallery) 2,500 square feet (Changing Exhibit Gallery) 1,800 square feet (Collections and Preparation Area) 912 square feet (Archives) 1,248 square feet (Education Classroom)
Museum Grounds (Acreage):	24.04 acres
Museum History:	With strong support of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council for The Museum Project, Resolution No. 4084 was passed in 1974 adopting the first Charter and establishing the first Board of the, then, Middle Oregon Indian Historical Society (MOIHS). The Charter has been amended several times, subsequently changing the name MOIHS to "The Museum At Warm Springs." It took more than 20 years of planning and numerous meetings to hire the first Executive Director in 1987. A tribal referendum was held in October 1988 voting in favor of appropriating \$2.5 million for Museum construction. Later, another \$726,493 was added making \$3,226,493—the largest sum ever committed by a Native tribe for a museum at that time. This was the first tribal museum in the state of Oregon. After hiring the first Executive Director, it took only a few months to raise another \$3.1 million from foundations, corporations and individuals. Benefiting from these monies was the construction, education program and an

endowment, bringing the total cost of the museum project to \$7,628,900.

Construction began on May 7, 1991 by SM Andersen Construction Company, Inc. of Portland, Oregon. The building designer was Stastny & Burke Architecture, Inc., also of Portland. The exhibits were designed by Formations, Inc, also located in Portland. The Museum's Grand Opening was celebrated on March 13, 1993.

Planning the Museum:

Warm Springs Tribal members participated in the designing and integration of tribal traditions. Elders from each of the three Tribes (Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiute) were invited to meetings to give ideas and suggestions based on their historical perspective.

Exterior and Landscape:

The Museum's grounds encompass 24.04 acres. The grounds serve as a park/rest-stop for many tourists. The Museum building is situated alongside Shi-tike Creek which empties into the Deschutes River in north central Oregon.

The Museum grounds include trails along the Shi-tike Creek with signage about plants indigenous to the area. The exterior effects and the building are arranged to resemble a traditional encampment among beautiful cottonwood trees. Materials used in the construction reflect the surroundings and traditions of the Tribes. Local stone, timber and brick are finely tuned to demonstrate the integration of the arts into everyday life. Traditional designs and symbols are carved into the building, including a drum, dance bustle, tipi, longhouse, travois and patterns of a Klickitat huckleberry basket.

Visitor Experience:

The experience begins with a stroll up a sidewalk next to a live stream, into a circular stone drum and up to the exquisite door with handles shaped like a bustle. As visitors enter the building, the stream continues, into a gray polished slate floor, creating a stream-like appearance. Visitors then encounter huge columns of what were once tall native trees of the Reservation. This is the main lobby of The Museum and the entrance to the Permanent Exhibit Hall. Outside The Museum to the west there is a small amphitheater that is used for outdoor performances, demonstrations and other public events.

Museum Interior Spaces:	The Museum interior includes the permanent exhibit, a changing exhibit gallery, gift shop, public restrooms, a library/archive, education room with cooking facilities, a conference/board room, artifact collection space and an office, maintenance room and administrative offices.
Museum Collection:	The dream of a tribal collection for The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon began more than four decades ago. In 1968, the Tribal leadership and community recognized that private collectors and off-reservation institutions were buying much of their material culture. Soon thereafter, the Tribes began to allocate \$50,000 per year for the purchase of artifacts from individual Tribal members and families of the Warm Springs community. More than \$1.5 million has been expended to date. The collection includes family heirlooms, trade items from other Native nations, bestowed gifts and keepsakes that have been passed on from generation to generation, making the collection one of the best and most complete material collections owned by a Native nation. There are noteworthy holdings of Pacific Northwest Native American paintings, sculpture, masks, ceremonial clothing, ritual implements, beadwork and historical archives.
Exhibitions:	The exhibition galleries showcase a broad spectrum of tribal artifacts, but The Museum devotes as much attention and care to the cultural and historical record of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation as it does to their arts and crafts. The Museum has a permanent exhibit and a changing schedule of temporary exhibits. The permanent exhibit provides a glimpse of historic life among the Tribes and tells the story of the Treaty of 1855 that created the Warm Springs reservation. Changing exhibitions feature special opportunities to experience the art, history and culture of the Tribes.
Archives:	The photography archive includes 5,000 photographs dating from the 1850s to the present. The archives also includes important Warm Springs tribal documents and many books on a wide range of subjects on Native American history, art and culture.

Public and Education Programs: Teaching and learning traditional arts, such as basket making and beading, is a key component of keeping the heritage of the Warm Springs culture alive. The Museum hosts a variety of public programs and education workshops year-round.

Museum Gift Shop: The Museum’s popular Gift Shop offers a unique assortment of merchandise. The selection of tribally-made beadwork, baskets and traditional and contemporary arts and crafts is unparalleled.

25th Anniversary (2018): The Museum’s 25th Anniversary was celebrated in 2018. Highlights of the yearlong observance included: a three-day Treaty Conference that focused on the Middle Oregon Treaty of 1855 Treaty and the establishment of The Museum in 1993 as important actions of inherent sovereignty; “Middle Oregon Treaty of 1855 Display” exhibition that included six pages of the original Middle Oregon Treaty of 1855 establishing the Warm Springs Reservation (the pages were on loan from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.); “Memory of the Land: Treaty of the Middle Columbia River Tribes and Bands,” an exhibition examining the history and legacy of the Tribes and the 1855 Treaty; and an honoring of “Living Treasures”—five Warm Springs tribal citizens whose knowledge and commitment to perpetuating the culture were at the core of The Museum’s mission and its legacy for future generations.

30th Anniversary (2023): The Museum is celebrating its 30th anniversary throughout 2023. A 30th Anniversary Gala Celebration and Fundraiser is being held at Tetherow in Bend, Oregon on Friday, October 13.

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