

Poetry association receives grant

Oregon Cultural Trust seeks to increase arts investment

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The Oregon Cultural Trust awarded the Silverton Poetry Association with a grant of \$1,200 for its annual poetry festival. The local organization will match the allotted grant with its own funds.

The Silverton Poetry Festival, which ran this year April 22-30, is a free event that features poetry workshops for people of all ages, a musical concert, a public reading by acclaimed poets and an “open mike” for teens and adults. Grant money will go toward honoraria, hospitality and transportation for featured poets in the association’s various year-round events.

“We’re just delighted,” said Silverton Poetry Association Treasurer Michael Smith. “The association is all volunteers, and getting this kind of public support is lovely. It tells us that we’re doing something worthwhile.”

“The annual Poetry Festival is about 75 percent of what the association does,” he said, “and the grant money will enable us to come out better next year and get even better poets.”

Smith noted the success of this year’s Sixth Annual Silverton Poetry Festival, mentioning that Saturday evening’s reading at Mount Angel Abbey Library’s auditorium was “terrifically successful. We had a full house.”

“We’re really happy how it’s going so far,” Smith said. “We’re off to a great start.”

The Oregon Cultural Trust grants are awarded to Marion County nonprofit organizations. Projects toward which monies go must be completed within the following year.

The Oregon Cultural Trust – a plan that seeks to increase private and public investment in the arts, heritage and humanities – receives money through the sale of Cultural Trust license plates, charitable donations and an increasingly popular credit-donation match for charitable organizations.

To learn more about the Oregon Cultural Trust, or to find out how to donate to the cause, visit www.culturaltrust.org.