

Grant money given to help local groups by Oregon Cultural Trust

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The Oregon Cultural Trust awarded grants to two Stayton groups: the Santiam Heritage Foundation and the Second Sundays Series Poetry Readings. Both organizations must match the grants with their own funds.

The Santiam Heritage Foundation received a \$2,000 grant to replace the etched-glass windows in the historic Charles and Martha Brown House.

The house, built in 1902, has already undergone several renovations through the foundation's "Help Save the Historic Charles and Martha Brown House" campaign: In August 2005, volunteers whitewashed the building, and the roof was replaced in October 2004.

"It's fantastic," said Santiam Heritage Foundation President Jacquelin Kirby. "We've more than matched funds, so we have about \$4,500 to go toward the house."

"Now, we just need to raise money for the window frames," she said.

There are currently "several bidders" for the etched glass, and the foundation anticipates the installation within several months, Kirby said.

The Second Sundays Series Poetry Readings – another Stayton group – was granted \$1,545 for continued funding.

Coordinator Eleanor Berry said she is exceptionally pleased with the award.

"It will finally enable me to pay a reasonable honoraria to featured poets," she said, "and the grant makes it possible to buy a book from each of the poets for the Stayton Public Library – we're helping them build their poetry collection."

This free poetry-reading venue, sponsored by the Friends of the Stayton Public Library, meets each second Sunday of the month at the Bird and Hat Inn. Generally, the set features two poets, who read and are then available for book signing.

"I'm very, very pleased," Berry said. "This is the second year [the Oregon Cultural Trust] gave funding. Last year, they granted us \$600. This year, they gave us the full amount we requested. I hope this suggests that they're confident with the work we're doing in the series."

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.