



A CELEBRATION OF ART, CULTURE AND HISTORY

Experience the Cultural Side of Washington County, Oregon

With its verdant forests, tranquil landscapes and small communities, Washington County, Oregon, is an artist's paradise. The art and culture scene of the Pacific Northwest is flourishing, and many communities in the county embrace local artisans and offer art exhibits, display public art or support the art community with galleries, events and festivals. The rich history of the Pacific Northwest is celebrated throughout the region with festivals, open houses and other events.

AN ARTIST'S COMMUNITY

The collective of artists in Washington County has created some amazing pieces, which is evidenced in the numerous displays and galleries throughout the region. New artists, as well as nationally recognized artists, have works publicly exhibited in various locations throughout the region.

The **Art Walk** is a collection of public art displayed throughout downtown Tualatin. The walk is a self-guided tour of interconnected trails exhibiting the city's public art, as well as its rich natural and cultural history. More than just sculptures, the walk includes historical structures, interpretative exhibits of the city's Native American history and the fossilized remains of "TuTu Tuala," a mastodon that is believed to have roamed 11,000 years ago where the city now lies.

In Forest Grove, an artist's co-op, the **Valley Art Association**, is committed to bringing local art from Pacific Northwest artisans to the community. The collection of high-quality, affordable original art is on display in their gallery on the city's main street. The non-profit organization also supports the local arts community with events such as the *Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival*, a long-standing community event that is held annually in September, and *November's Annual Artist Event*, an art exhibit featuring nearly 100 Pacific Northwest artists representing various art media from oils, pastels and watercolors to pottery, fused and blown glass and jewelry, and everything in between. Each month, the community gathers for First Wednesday, a monthly art event featuring special events, wine tastings and live music.

Forest Grove also is home to the **Kathryn Cawein Gallery of Art**, located on the campus of Pacific University. The gallery features art from local, regional and national artists, as well as exhibits of work from the university's faculty, students and alumni.

The **Oregon College of Art & Craft**, located in unincorporated Washington County, just outside of Portland, is a private, independent craft college that celebrates art and craft of various genres. The college, which celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2007, houses the **Hoffman Gallery**, which features exhibits contemporary craft from local artisans, including faculty, students, alumni and the college's artist-in-residence – a nationally-known or emerging artist from outside of the metro area.

(MORE)

PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HISTORY

Oregon has a colorful cultural history, and various areas in Washington County celebrate the pioneers of the Pacific Northwest and the settlers who made their marks in the region nearly 200 years ago.

The **Washington County Historical Society** preserves the history of the county, and serves the public by linking the region's rich, cultural history and artifacts of the past to the present. This history is on exhibit at the Washington County Historical Museum, located on the campus of Portland Community College, Rock Creek in unincorporated Washington County. The museum's exhibits help visitors understand the challenges of those who pioneered Oregon in the 1800s, whose contributions to Washington County are still evident in many communities.

Historical markers, pioneer cemeteries and century farms dot the county, and several historical homes have been preserved for future generations to enjoy.

A historical sites tour of Washington County, Oregon, adds an additional glimpse into life in the early days of settlement in Oregon. Sites such as the **John F. Tigard House**, in Tigard, **Jenkins Estate** in Aloha, **Old College Hall** on the campus of Pacific University in Forest Grove, and the **Old Scotch Church** in Hillsboro, are all remnants of yesteryear and serve as reminders of the past.

From the historical roots of the region to the newest in contemporary art, Washington County's arts and culture scene is thriving, and the region continues to make a name for itself among the art and historical communities. Come see for yourself – you may just learn something new along the way.

ABOUT WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON

Washington County, Oregon, is scenically situated between Portland and the Oregon Coast, and is only minutes away from downtown Portland. The county spans 727 square miles, and includes the growing communities of Banks, Beaverton, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, North Plains, Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville. Washington County is home to world-class golf courses, award-winning wineries, an array of outdoor recreation opportunities, lush, natural and scenic wetlands and wildlife preserves, superb dining and myriad shopping, from boutiques to antiques. Its thriving corporate business parks house some of the largest high-tech and industrial companies in the world, such as Nike, Columbia Sportswear and Intel. For more information on the region, visit the Washington County Visitors Association's website, www.visitwashingtoncountyoregon.com, or call 503-644-5555, toll-free, 800-537-3149.

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