The parking garage in the basement of the Oregon State Capitol is undergoing construction. *Photo: Joel Zak (2021)*

Oregon State Capitol FOUNDATION

Newsletter

Spring 2022

Preserving our Capitol as a safe, vibrant place to engage with history and democracy

The Oregon State Capitol Foundation is an advocate of the Capitol Accessibility, Maintenance and Safety project.

By Gary Wilhelms, Capitol Foundation Board Member, former Oregon State Representative

The Oregon State Capitol is on the National Register of Historic Places. Before the pandemic, more than 200,000 people visited the building and surrounding grounds each year.

Our Capitol is more than a top tourist attraction. It is where Oregonians go to face the challenges of our state's future.

The Oregon State Capitol Foundation Board of Directors is passionate about our Capitol and your role in the history made there.

This is why we support the Capitol Accessibility, Maintenance and Safety project. The CAMS project addresses Americans with Disabilities Act deficiencies, security and safety issues, and at-risk mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in the building.

In early December 2021, CAMS Project Director Jodie Jones gave Capitol Foundation Board members and staff a guided tour of CAMS II construction.

"Thanks so much to Jodie Jones for giving a construction tour for our Board members. The tour brought into focus how necessary and important this project is in preserving our lovely Capitol," said Judy Hall, Capitol Foundation Chair.

The evolution of CAMS

The Oregon State Capitol developed a Capitol Master Plan in 2009 to identify and plan for future needs of the building looking 30 years ahead.

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CAPITOL TIMELINE

1855 and 1935
Oregon's first two capitols destroyed by fire.

1936-38
Current Capitol built.

1977
Jason Boe Senate Wing and Phil Lang House Wing constructed.

1993
Earthquake damages Rotunda requiring restoration work.

2009
Oregon State Capitol develops Capitol Master Plan.

2016
Legislature approves Capitol Accessibility, Maintenance and Safety project (CAMS).

2020
Legislature approves CAMS Phase II.

2022
Legislature approves CAMS Phase III.

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Preserving our Capitol as a safe, vibrant place to engage with history and democracy

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In 2016, the Legislature passed the first phase of the CAMS project. CAMS II, passed in 2020, expanded necessary work on the building.

> ***"The Capitol is the one building the Legislature is solely responsible for. Her 1938 design is inefficient in our 21st century world. She's not well. She needs our help."***
>
> — *Senate President Peter Courtney, longtime supporter of the CAMS project.*

Pictured above and below: CAMS II construction at the Oregon State Capitol.
Photos: Joel Zak, 2021

During its 2022 Session, the Legislature authorized an initial $242,946,000 in funding for CAMS III with the passage of Senate Bills 5701 and 5702. CAMS III will complete the renovation of the building including seismic retrofitting and safety upgrades.

To ensure the safe, timely completion of the CAMS III project, a portion of the Capitol and grounds surrounding the building will close to the public from July 1, 2022, through January 2025. Information on how to engage with the legislative process during the building's closure will be available online at www.oregonlegislature.gov.

The Capitol Foundation offers its sincerest thanks to Legislative Leadership, the Oregon State Legislature and Gov. Brown for supporting this major project.

Popinga receives prestigious Capitol Foundation Bell Award

The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the nonprofit.

Juliene Popinga
2022 Bell Award recipient.

The Oregon State Capitol Foundation Bell Award recognizes devoted individuals who make outstanding contributions to the organization. On Jan. 26, 2022, OSCF Chair Judy Hall presented Juliene Popinga with the Bell Award for igniting belief and stimulating involvement in our democracy.

"Juliene's work exemplifies a passion for the relationship between our Capitol, the Oregon story, the shared heritage of Oregonians and the Foundation's mission," said Hall.

Upon receiving the award, Popinga said, *"I'm very fortunate to work with an amazing Visitor Services team and committed individuals and organizations that engage in developing experiences for the Capitol visitors. I am honored to be the recipient of the 2022 Bell Award and look forward to future opportunities to share Capitol stories and Oregon history. I also would like to thank the Capitol Foundation for their stewardship of the building, and ongoing contribution to programming that enhances the visitor experience."*

Popinga is the third person and the first non-Board member to receive the prestigious award. Frankie Bell — the award's namesake — and former Oregon State Senator Jane Cease received the award in 2021.

"Some years ago, my husband Ron and I decided to ask our family to make donations to causes we support instead of giving us more 'things.' We've lived in our house for 54 years and it's stuffed with too many 'things.' So, each year for birthdays and at Christmas, we suggest the Oregon State Capitol Foundation or, I must confess, each of us has one other cause we mention. That way, each family member has a choice — and we did raise them to think for themselves. But I think they feel good about giving to worthy causes like the Capitol Foundation and I bet yours will too! Try it."

Jane Cease
Capitol Foundation Board Member and former Chair, 2021 Capitol Foundation Bell Award recipient and former Oregon State Senator.

Remembering Oregonians who added to the Capitol story

Rep. Bob Ackerman, a member of the Oregon House of Representatives from 2001 to 2005, died Feb. 22 at age 84.

Cynthia Rose Day, who worked as a legislative secretary in 1965, died July 4, 2021, at age 86.

Gerry Frank, long-time aide to Sen. Mark Hatfield, died March 13 at age 98. Watch Frank's oral history interview at tinyurl.com/CapitolFoundationGerryFrank.

David Lau, former Capitol volunteer and guide, died Sept. 2, 2021, at age 89.

Floyd McKay, an Oregon political reporter and journalist, died March 4 at age 86. Watch McKay's Speaker Series presentation at https://tinyurl.com/FloydMcKay.

Marian Miligan, a women's activist and political volunteer, died Dec. 14, 2021, at age 85.

Rep. Brad Morris, a member of the Oregon House of Representatives from 1973-1977, died Feb. 25 at age 84.

Rep. Walt Schroeder, a member of the Oregon House of Representatives from 1985-1993, died Nov. 9, 2021, at age 94.

Kathryn Weit, former policy analyst and lobbyist, died April 25, 2021, at age 74.

CORRECTION, Winter/Spring 2021 Newsletter: Louise Isabell (Morrison) Van Vliet died Dec. 26, 2021.

In January, the Oregon State Capitol Foundation announced its new Civics Education Initiative. This new program will award up to $50,000 in sponsorships to organizations for programs that teach Oregonians about Oregon's legislative process, state and local budgeting and administrative processes, citizen participation opportunities and governmental history.

Visit https://oregoncapitolfoundation.org/#CEI to learn more.

Special thanks to Capitol Foundation donors and purchasers of Pacific Wonderland license plates for making our new Civics Education Initiative sponsorship program possible. Together, we are helping Oregonians learn about and better appreciate the intricacies of governing, the goals of democratic processes and the value of civic involvement.

SCAN ME

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We look forward to reconnecting and reminiscing with you

One reason our Capitol is important to us is because of the special memories we made there with you.

The Oregon State Capitol Foundation is planning our next Capitol Alumni Reunion. Former legislators, Capitol staff, lobbyists and members of the press will soon receive their "save the date" postcard.

We look forward to getting together with you again!

Pictured: *Onlookers await the start of the Oregon State Capitol Birthday Celebration in 2013. The Oregon State Capitol Foundation organized the historic event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the building's dedication and opening to public use in 1938.*