

YOU BELONG.

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2025

It has been a fraught Immigrant Welcoming Week here in Oregon and across the United States. Originally called National Welcoming Week in the U.S., intending to celebrate and uplift diversity and values of welcoming and inclusion for all, today Welcoming Week is a global movement toward a more welcoming world.

But I know it's difficult for many to celebrate this year given our current federal landscape: sharp division in our communities, threats and bullying from government, the rule of law under duress, political violence, an all-out rejection of science and medicine, silencing of the intellectual professional class, censorship of those who speak out, the detainment and deportation of long-time friends and neighbors behind the cowardice of masks and secrecy—all clear signs of our nation's continued march toward authoritarianism.

It feels hopeless at times. I feel hopeless at times. **And yet.**

And yet we must reject hopelessness now more than ever.

And yet we fight dis- and misinformation by being **informed**. Request an information session for your community on Oregon's [bias response](#) and [sanctuary promise](#) laws and hotlines. When we are educated about what our laws say, what resources are available, and how we can contribute to our community's overall vibrancy and wellness, this is an act of love. This is a contribution toward welcoming and belonging.

And yet we battle silencing by **participating**. This means speaking up, speaking out, speaking loudly. To report the impact of federal decisions on your life and your community, contact:

- the [Governor](#)
- the [Oregon Attorney General](#)
- your [state/local elected officials](#)
- your [federal elected officials](#)

And yet we can **reject the othering** that happens all too easily online. If you want to see the worst of society, go on social media. Alternative: **live in real life!**

And yet we avoid polarization and radicalization as we seek out ways to **connect**. Call a neighbor. Share a meal. Ask questions with curiosity. Be vulnerable. Be willing to change and learn.

My message to you: take peaceful, loving steps to reclaim this country. We, the community, are America's soul, its hope, its indomitable future.

With hope and gratitude,

Fay Gtetz-Waters

Oregon DOJ Director of Civil Rights and Social Justice



STAY IN THE KNOW

The [State of Oregon has filed suit](#) and a [temporary restraining order](#) challenging the unlawful deployment of Oregon National Guard members in the city of Portland. The suit seeks immediate relief from the court, declaring the federalization of Oregon's National Guard unlawful, and halting the President's order. Media releases and updates are available [on the AGO website here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



9/15–10/15 Hispanic Heritage Month: This month celebrates the contributions and culture of Latino Americans. In Oregon and throughout the United States, Latino communities are facing a time of enormous fear and apprehension, and some well-established community events have been scaled down or even canceled due to safety concerns. And yet, some will still gather. [Check out this Oregonian article's listing of events that are still being held across Oregon here](#).

10/04 from 11am-7pm [El Tigre Fest: Celebrating both Hispanic Heritage Month and Filipino History Month](#): this free festival with vendors, performances, and family activities will be a full day of connection and cultural pride.

10/04 at 10am [Corvallis Pride](#): It's time for Corvallis Pride at the Benton County Fairgrounds and Event Center. Come celebrate love and belonging with LGBTQIA2S+ communities and allies! This event will include a variety of activities such as musicians, spooky games, and food.

10/11 at 10am [Beaverton Family Resource Fair](#): Attend the Beaverton Family Resource Fair at the Beaverton City Library to learn about some of Oregon's family-friendly non-profit organizations. These organizations are available to support families with young children under the age of eleven!

10/19 at 10am [West Coast Giant Pumpkin Regatta](#): Celebrate autumn with the West Coast Giant Pumpkin Regatta at Lake of the Commons! This festive event features a variety of pumpkin-related activities like pumpkin races, pumpkin bowling, and pumpkin golf. Enjoy food and entertainment with our lovely Oregon community!

11/1 from 11am-2pm [Community Health Fair](#): Get excited for the IRCO and Coalition of Community Health Clinics Community Health Fair. This fair serves to educate our community about important health and community resources.

CRU VOLUNTEER/INTERN OPPORTUNITIES!

Do you want to take a [Stand Against Hate](#) in Oregon? Then we need you! Oregon DOJ Civil Rights Unit is recruiting for our winter training cohort. The application deadline is November 16, 2025, for training starting January 2026! Volunteers and interns receive extensive training in anti-bias victim advocacy, obtain Oregon DOJ certification as a Certified Bias Response Advocate upon completion of the program, and gain incredible experience working alongside staff in the Civil Rights Unit.

Are you interested in: direct advocacy, outreach, or social media management? Visit our [volunteer/intern website](#) for more information about advocate duties as well as application details.

Applications are open now!

CJC'S SANCTUARY PROMISE DATA DASHBOARD

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission has created a [public, interactive data dashboard for sanctuary promise data in Oregon](#). This dashboard includes:

- data from public bodies and law enforcement agencies reporting communications and attempts from federal immigration agencies to obtain access/assistance/cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.
- data from ODOJ's Sanctuary Promise Hotline reflecting community members reports of suspected sanctuary law violations.

WHAT WAS THE CRU UP TO OVER THE SUMMER?

Silverton Pride

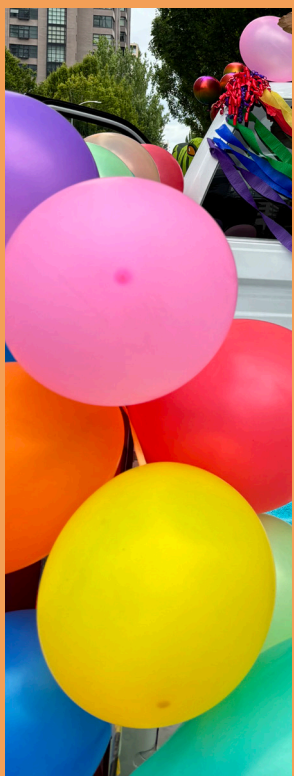
This year, Silverton Pride was at Coolidge-McClaine Park. We had the honor of tabling at this wonderful celebration of love and belonging on June 28! Hear more about the experience from one of our team members: "The event staff was extraordinarily helpful and courteous. They made us feel welcome and excited to be there. The crowd was also very open and the atmosphere was pleasant. The park location was awesome-- a lot of trees and ample space."

Open Streets Corvallis

Open Streets Corvallis is a super fun event that turns our streets and parks into walkways and play areas! We were lucky to table at this event on June 29. Our team members had a great time there: "This was a great event. It stretches across two parks with booths and vendors at three locations. We were on the south end and had decent traffic all day. We had beading supplies for interactive engagement, and the kids loved it. There is a parade with a band, leading participants from one park to the next."

Portland Pride Parade

Every summer, our team looks forward to attending the Portland Pride Parade. This summer was no different! On July 20, we were overjoyed to participate in the parade and interact with the amazing attendees. One of our team members shared about their experience at the parade: "Whenever we go out to any community or cultural events as part of our CRU work, I am lifted. I see the best of people and the best of our state. Portland Pride in particular is such a fun event where everyone is invited, welcome, accepted, and celebrated. I love seeing the creativity in the parade marchers and attendees and importantly spreading the word about the work we do. I think my favorite part every year is spending time decorating our vehicle, enjoying the company of my colleagues, and eating chocolate chip cookies and Shake Shack french fries!"



RESOURCES & TOOLS

[Defending Civic Space in the United States: Lessons Learned Around the World](#) toolkit by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – “In a context of democratic erosion, U.S. civil society organizations face a widening array of legal, political, and security threats. They can learn from the experiences of civic activists in backsliding democracies around the world.”

[Oregon for All](#) provides a list of vital resources for Oregon’s immigrant and refugee community. Over 400,000 immigrants call Oregon home, and it is up to us to ensure that our state continues to be a welcoming space for them. Highlights from Oregon for All:



- Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition aka PIRC, which tracks ICE activity in our communities **throughout Oregon** and refers community members to immigration attorney and support resources.
- Equity Corps of Oregon aka ECO, providing immigration attorneys to immigrant and refugee Oregonians.

October is [Domestic Violence Awareness month](#). Everyone deserves to be safe at home and in their intimate relationships, no matter their identity, no matter their immigration status. As the loss of federal VOCA dollars that fund Oregon’s domestic violence service programs weigh heavy in our communities across the state, now more than ever we need to advocate for resources for survivors, prevention efforts, and raising awareness that domestic violence doesn’t discriminate; it crosses all identities. Need support? Contact the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) or [Strong Hearts Native Helpline](#).

[A Six-Strategy Framework Examining How Political and Cultural Leaders Weaponize Gender in Ways that Advance Authoritarianism](#) – Othering & Belonging Institute has launched a new project that explores how authoritarian movements leverage and weaponize gender to divide society and opposition movements, launder and normalize social hierarchies, reshape cultural norms, and lay the groundwork for authoritarian power consolidation and violence.

Prosper Portland has launched the [Local Small Business Expanded Repair/Restore Grant Program](#), which provides funding to small businesses located in the City of Portland that have sustained physical and economic damage due to break-ins and vandalism.

Unite Oregon and OHA have introduced a [Telenovela Series: Decisions on Sexual and Reproduction Health Choices](#) to inform the Latinx community about the stigma surrounding sexual and reproductive health choices.

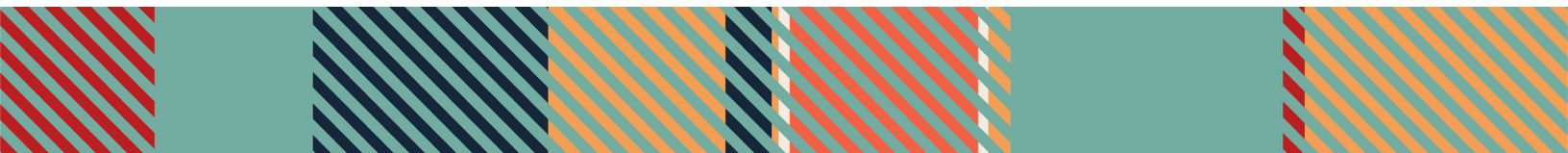
Take the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) [Oregon Tenant Survey 2025](#) to help CAT understand the biggest problems renters are facing and better support the community. Contact kmccarty@oregoncat.org for questions.

Oregon Department of Justice's
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

Bias Response Hotline
1-844-924-BIAS
Report online at StandAgainstHate.Oregon.gov

Sanctuary Promise Hotline
1-844-924-STAY
Report online at SanctuaryPromise.Oregon.gov

Linea Directa de Promesa Santuario
1-844-6-AMPARO
Reporta en línea en cualquier momento en PromesaSantuario.Oregon.gov



TRAINING AND LEARNING



The Oregon Historical Society hosted **“All of Us”: A Symposium on Immigration and Civil Rights** on September 27. Presenters included Tina Ching, Peggy Nagae, Danny Santos, our own Civil Rights Director Fay Stetz-Waters, and Daniel Tichenor. This symposium offered historical and legal context to debates about immigration and civil rights. Check out [OHS website for this event's audio recording](#).

The Victim Rights Law Center is offering a free webinar for advocates working with survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence and/or stalking called **Know More, Do More: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking**. Join this webinar **September 30** from 10-11:30am PT. [Register here](#).

Unite Oregon is hosting a [free Renter's Rights 101 webinar](#) on **October 7** from 6-7:30pm PT.

Healing Equity United invites leaders, managers and practitioners to join their free webinar called **Trauma-Informed Leadership in Times of Crisis** on **October 14** from 10-11am. The webinar will cover strategies for balancing staff care with organizational sustainability and provide approaches to cultivate resilience, trust and clarity in times of crisis. [Register here](#).

United for Immigrant Justice is sponsoring [Melting ICE](#), a traveling exhibit aiming to humanize the experiences of people who have been detained at the Northwest ICE Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. Melting ICE invites us to consider the consequences of mass deportations through testimonies from detainees. This exhibit will be on **October 18** at 1pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene.

Cascadia Health is hosting a conversation series with their experts; [visit their website here](#) to register and secure your spot for these in-person sessions:

- October 10 at 5:30pm — **Breaking the Stigma of Mental Health: A Human Centered Approach to Mental Healthcare** - Join to learn more about how to enhance coordination at all levels of care.
- November 20 at 5:30pm — **Housing is Healthcare: The Importance of Housing for Stability, Recovery and Opportunity** - Join to learn more about Cascadia's strategic plan to address the housing crisis.

The ADL is hosting their annual **Hope Over Hate- Building Safe Communities: Understanding Antisemitism & Hate** summit in downtown Seattle on Sunday, **October 19** from 1:00-5:00pm. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

Western States Center is hosting their annual **AMP (Activists Mobilizing for Power) Conference** in Portland on **October 21-23**. [View the agenda and register here](#).

OHS is hosting the Mark O. Hatfield Lecture Series, including:

- February 17, 2026, Keisha Blain — **Without Fear: Black Women and the Making of Human Rights**
- March 10, 2026, Michael Luo — **Strangers in the Land: Exclusion, Belonging, and the Epic Story of the Chinese in America**
- April 14, 2026, Megan Kate Nelson — **The Westerners: Myth-Making and Belonging on the American Frontier**
- May 12, 2026, Rick Atkinson — **Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777–1780 (Revolution Trilogy, 2)**
- In-person tickets can be purchased at portland5.com or by calling the Portland 5 box office at 503.248.4910. Virtual-only tickets can be purchased exclusively through the Oregon Historical Society.



WHAT IS THE CRU WATCHING AND READING?

Defectors: The Rise of the Latino Far Right and What it Means for America by Paola Ramos is an NPR Best Book of 2024. Explore through individual storytelling the radicalization, rise, and influence of far-right sentiment among Latinos.

Honky by Dalton Conley, tells Conley's story of his childhood with the hindsight and understanding that comes with his current profession as a sociologist. As one of the only white boys in a mostly Black and Puerto Rican neighborhood on Manhattan's Lower East Side in the 1970s, Conley's memoir reflects on race, class, and inequality in America.

Hombrecito by Santiago Jose Sanchez, is a coming-of-age novel centering a young, queer, immigrant and his complex relationships with identity, family, and his country.

Why Didn't You Tell Me? by Carmen Rita Wong is the story of an immigrant mother's long-held secrets and their impact on her daughter's understanding of her family, her identity, and her place.

Tias and Primas: On Knowing and Loving the Women Who Raise Us by Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez explores intergenerational trauma, colonization, and sexism in a discussion of archetypes within her family's resilient, beautiful women.

Sugarcane – This documentary is directed by award winners from the Sundance Film Festival Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie. "In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves was discovered on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities." Their investigation leads watchers into the traumatic history of the Canadian Indian residential school system.

Follow the CRU on social media!

