



# CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Operating the Museum Since 1964

November 23, 2011

Dear Museum Friends,

The jury is in. History education plays a role in developing healthy, successful communities! A recent study by Rockman et al\* provides evidence that history education makes a tremendous impact on the lives of students and the communities they live in. The results of the Rockman study demonstrate a direct relationship to an increase in standardized test scores but also the development of critical thinking, writing and research skills. History education prepares students for college, careers and good citizenship. In a nutshell, history matters!

I write to you today to ask you to make a donation to support the Clark County Historical Museum. We are the stewards of an impressive museum collection that represents your collective history and we use it as a tool to create relevant and accessible history education programs that benefit the greater community. Our museum programs focus on serving the people of Clark County but also reach Southwest Washington, the Portland metro area, 35 states and 10 countries. Each year we raise more than seventy percent of our cash operating budget. The money comes from a combination of earned income (such as admissions and Museum Store sales), annual memberships and generous donations made by private individuals like you. Your financial support and investment in the museum is essential. 2011 has been a very tough fiscal year. We need your support to continue to provide the public with educational programs that teach where we have been and help guide where we might go in the future. The museum is helping the community develop the necessary 21<sup>st</sup>-century tools, skills and aptitudes we need to succeed in a global marketplace. Using your dollars wisely we stretch our lean resources through partnerships that leverage additional in-kind and cash support. I am very proud to report that the majority of all donations made to the museum go directly into funding public programs.

We have had another very productive year at the museum. Our list of public programs include five educational exhibits (*Bridging the Gap: the History of the Interstate Bridge*, *Mapping Clark County: Maps and Ariel Photos 1854-2000*, *Road to Equality; the Struggle for Women's Rights in the Northwest*, *Woven History*, and *Working Traditions: Folk Artists of Washington State*), the completion of the six season of our *First Thursday Museum After Hours* program which provided 10 free evening programs, hosting of our first annual *Unpublished Writers Day*, bringing in motivational speaker Aunt Lena as part of our annual Women's Tea & Luncheon, completion of the sixth season of our annual Architectural Walking Tour program, the continuation of our Artifact Detectives school program via a Teaching American History partnership with local schools, and the release of our 2010 Clark County History Annual. More than 3,000 people attended our eighth annual Harvest Fun Day event which resulted in 6,800 pounds of vegetables being picked for the Clark County Food Bank. Working with our partners at the WSU V library we continued to digitize the museum's archives putting the 1876-1877 issues of the Vancouver Independent (pre-courser to the Columbian) on-line in a key-word searchable database. You can actually go to our website and read those historic newspapers!

We hope you share in our excitement as we bring a broad range of new programs and services to our greater community in 2012. Plans include a full year of engaging and interesting programs. Clark County's long and exciting history is something for all of us to be proud of. Your financial support makes that possible. On behalf of the Museum – and the community- thank you for your continued support. For your convenience we have posted a donation form on this website. If you prefer to give on-line, we also accept donations via PayPal. Your vote of confidence is very much needed & appreciated. May your holiday season be filled with peace & joy.

With Warmest Greetings,

Executive Director

\*P.S. To view the details of the Rockman et al study just click on the links provided on our website.