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Former Journalist, Nonprofit Leader Named Director of Communications at Oregon Community Foundation

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon Community Foundation has named former public radio journalist and nonprofit executive director Colin Fogarty as its Director of Communications. This is a new role at OCF, created to elevate the stories of the foundation's partners and collaborators and the positive work they are doing in every community of Oregon.

"The work and impact of this 50-year-old foundation is growing significantly," said Stephanie Swanson, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer. "We are so fortunate to have someone like Colin who deeply understands the power of storytelling to deliver a call to attention, bring people together, and push to improve this state we love and call home," she added.

Fogarty joins a team of 10 professionals on the marketing, communications and research team at OCF, helping Oregonians to better understand pressing needs across the state, and join efforts to make big and lasting improvements in communities across the state.

Fogarty spent two decades as a public radio reporter and editor. At OPB News, he covered the Oregon legislature in Salem and big issues facing the state, such as Oregon's landmark Death with Dignity Act and its chronic meth epidemic. His stories were heard throughout the Northwest and on NPR. Later he became regional editor for public radio's Northwest News Network, where he managed a team of reporters covering the issues and state legislatures in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Along the way, Colin kept returning to the theme of history and its role in our everyday lives. He produced stories on the Columbia River's Indigenous cultures and the silencing of Celilo Falls in 1957.

In 2014, he became Executive Director of Confluence, a community-supported nonprofit and OCF grant recipient, with the mission to connect people to the history, living cultures and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. Confluence works through public art landscapes, education programs, public gatherings, media and publications in collaboration with northwest Tribes and the celebrated artist Maya Lin.

Now at OCF, Fogarty has once again traded one form of storytelling for another, with the aim of highlighting stories of nonprofit and community leaders serving Oregonians in every corner of the state.

“In all my roles, my priority was always to elevate the voices of people who have been historically kept out of the public dialogue and the history books,” Fogarty says. “At OCF, we have the opportunity to lift up the voices of the people who inspire and teach us, and who are having a real impact in small communities and large, rural and urban, and everywhere in between.”

About Oregon Community Foundation

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) was founded in 1973 with a big mission: to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. In partnership with donors and volunteers, OCF works to strengthen communities in every county in Oregon through research, grantmaking and scholarships. In 2023, OCF distributed more than \$200 million in grants and scholarships. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds to support causes important to them. To learn more, please visit oregoncf.org.

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