



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2018

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Free Discussion about Creating Inclusive Communities

The February 22 event is part of Oregon Humanities' statewide Conversation Project.

Oregonians envision a future that includes communities built on values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. At the same time, we live in a society that marginalizes and excludes people of color. How does Oregon's history of racism influence our present and how can understanding historic and current impacts of racism in Oregon contribute to our sense of place and vision of the future? How can diversity and inclusion create thriving communities?

This is the focus of "Beyond Invitation: How do we Create Inclusive Communities," a free conversation with Rachel Bernstein at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 22 at the City of Springfield, Library Meeting Room, 225 Fifth Street. This program is jointly hosted by Springfield Public Library and City of Springfield and sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

Rachel Bernstein is the partnership and training manager at Oregon Humanities. For the past decade, as a political and nonprofit professional, her work has focused on building the civic capacity and engagement of coalitions, organizations, groups, and individuals. As a Conversation Project leader, she appreciates discovering what Oregonians are already doing to create inclusive communities and what questions they are still struggling with.

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to our daily lives and our state's future.

For more information about this free community discussion, please contact Vahana Keene at 541.726.3670 or vkeene@springfield-or.gov. Due to the sometimes sensitive nature of these conversations, we do request that prior notice be given if members of the media plan to attend so that we may prepare the participants for that possibility.

Oregon Humanities (921 SW Washington, Suite 150; Portland, OR 97205) connects Oregonians to ideas that change lives and transform communities. More information about Oregon Humanities' programs and publications, which include the Conversation Project, Think & Drink, Humanity in Perspective, Public Program Grants, Responsive Program Grants, and *Oregon Humanities* magazine, can be found at

oregonhumanities.org. Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.