

Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. Diversity and Inclusivity Statement

Adopted by the GFO Board of Directors February 13, 2018

The primary purposes of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. (GFO) are to promote interest in genealogy and to preserve and provide genealogical and historical records and information. GFO strives to fulfill this mission by offering educational classes and materials, by compiling, preserving and publishing genealogical and historical records, and by providing access to abundant resources.

GFO is committed to supporting every individual's genealogical research. Insights gained through genealogical research can greatly enhance understanding of how our ancestors' lives were shaped by events and experiences. Research can reveal motivations, migratory patterns, and prove or disprove family stories. Through genealogy, people may discover their own unique genealogical heritage, which reflects humanity in all of its rich diversity. GFO actively seeks new ways to support diversity throughout all its endeavors.

GFO strives to acquire genealogical and historical resources, as they become available and, as budget allows, that address under-represented or historically marginalized groups. In addition, it seeks materials about historically under-reported topics and events in an effort to expand knowledge and deepen understanding beyond traditional historical perspectives.

When personal family history is lacking or unknown, as is often the case for adoptees, and for other under-documented groups, DNA can provide vital information that can further discoveries. GFO offers educational opportunities on interpreting DNA test results, and on using these results to augment traditional genealogical research. This helps raise awareness of each individual's genetic makeup and can often reveal the complexity of humanity's diversity on a deeply personal level.

GFO provides free monthly presentations, special interest group meetings, and annual Open House events, all open to the public, that are purposefully designed to cover a broad spectrum of groups and topics relating to genealogical research. GFO also opens the research library one day a month free to the public.

GFO relies upon a broad community of support for its ongoing success and works to initiate partnership alliances with other organizations in an effort to broaden its outreach to and collaboration with other community partners.

In 2017, the GFO Board of Directors unanimously adopted a Non-Discrimination Statement. GFO endeavors to make more apparent our commitment to diversity and to seek opportunities to support equity and inclusion in GFO's everyday operations, educational offerings, representation on our Board of Directors, and in our community outreach. GFO is dedicated to promoting and fostering an environment of respect where honesty, integrity, and hard work serve to further all that we accomplish and reach all whom we encounter.