2024 - 2025 Lay It Out Foundation Annual Highlights

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST YEAR!

The Lay It Out Foundation is proud to present our first annual report, highlighting the achievements and impact of our initiatives over the past year. We are incredibly grateful for the passionate individuals, businesses, and organizations who have supported us along the way. Our foundation remains committed to helping sustain local journalism and investigative reporting, fostering community engagement, supporting local arts and culture, and partnering with other nonprofit organizations.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Central Oregon Gives

One of our most impactful initiatives, Central Oregon Gives, continued to make a significant difference in our community. This year, we expanded our outreach efforts, strengthening our ability to connect donors with vital local organizations. Our collaborative fundraising platform has provided essential financial support to nonprofits across the region, empowering them to continue their crucial work. The generosity of our donors and the dedication of our partners have made this possible, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to facilitate such meaningful change. Collectively, we raised over one million dollars for the third year in a row! This year's total surpassed last year's total by $100,000 and reached double the amount of donors compared to 2023.

Investigative Reporting Produced by LIOF

The Lay It Out Foundation has made significant strides in investigative journalism. With the addition of our investigative reporter, we have amplified our mission through compelling storytelling, strategic collaborations, and community-driven journalism. This work has shed light on pressing issues in the Bend community, providing in-depth analysis and elevating underrepresented voices.

To explore investigative features and series on wildfires, City and County issues, homelessness, and local elections produced by LIOF, visit: **LIOF Investigative Reporting**.

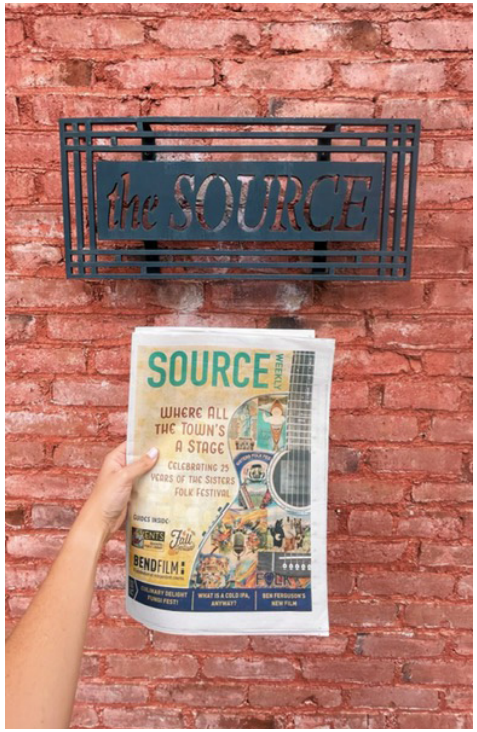
Our Membership Program

Support Local Journalism

Our membership program plays a vital role in sustaining local journalism and ensuring the continued success of the Lay It Out Foundation. By becoming a member, supporters contribute directly to:

- **Funding Investigative Reporting**: Membership contributions help us finance in-depth journalism that holds leaders accountable and brings critical issues to light.
- **Expanding Community Coverage**: With sustained funding, we can cover more local stories, ensuring that important voices and topics are represented.
- **Supporting Independent Media**: Membership has increased by 10% during the last year. In a time when independent journalism faces numerous challenges, our members help us remain a strong, community-driven publication.

With the support of our membership program, we can continue to produce quality reporting, host impactful events, and provide valuable resources to our community. With the daily newspapers being purchased by an out of state corporation this year local support is more important than ever. We deeply appreciate our members' contributions and encourage others to join in sustaining local journalism. Every membership, every donation, and every word of encouragement fuels our work and keeps our mission alive.



The Importance of Receiving the Tech Transformation Grant

This year, the Lay It Out Foundation was honored to receive the Tech Transformation Grant, a crucial investment that has significantly enhanced our ability to serve the community. With this grant, we have been able to:

- **Hire Key Leadership**: Bringing on an executive director and a development director has strengthened our outreach efforts and deepened our connections with members.
- **Expand Investigative Journalism**: The grant enabled us to hire our first investigative reporter, increasing access to in-depth, high-quality journalism that fosters community engagement and transparency.
- **Enhance Digital Capabilities**: By modernizing our technology, we have improved reporting efficiency, expanded multimedia storytelling, and created richer experiences for our audience.

The Tech Transformation Grant has empowered us to innovate and adapt in an ever-changing media landscape, ensuring that we continue to provide high-quality journalism for Central Oregon. It has also been a reminder that investing in technology is investing in the future of independent journalism.

ABOUT THE LAY IT OUT FOUNDATION

The Lay It Out Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing investigative journalism and in-depth reporting throughout Central Oregon. By supporting rigorous, community-driven features and series, we strive to shed light on critical issues, amplify underrepresented voices, and foster a more informed and engaged public. Join us in sustaining independent journalism and help make a lasting impact by visiting **layitoutfoundation.org.**

Scan to donate