



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2018

Contact:

Amber Fossen, 541.726.3695 or 541.968.8496

Free Discussion about Cultural Appropriation

The March 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 "What is Cultural Appropriation?," a free conversation with Surabhi Mahajan at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 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.

Surabhi Mahajan is a longtime resident and active community member in Salem, Oregon, who works for food access in her community. Her experience as part of a family of immigrants and a woman of color with a college education has helped her understand how different aspects of her culture have informed her place in the world. She looks forward to talking with fellow Oregonians to discuss how cultural appropriation shapes individuals' experiences and identities.

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.