

My Oregon theater company has toured internationally for over three decades. Overseas, many people mention America's problems with racism. I like to share with them my experiences at Oregon county fairs where people of all ages and ethnicities mingle to enjoy wholesome family fun.

I think it is important to keep these events alive as an example of our heritage of creating a shared culture that is collectively American culture. At fairs I see grandparents share with their children and grand children the Ballet Folklorico and Native American crafts, the steam powered implements and horse tack that helped feed their ancestors and the arts and crafts their neighbors create. I see kids of many colors sharing pride in the animals they've raised to make a little money toward their college years.

Fairs are also color blind staging grounds for battles against regional disasters from fires to viruses.

I think it's obvious there should be no limit on funding the needs of the county fairs. Allot them the amount deemed necessary to grow and serve as they always have.