



Oregon State University  
Center for Resilient  
Agriculture & Food Systems

## Second Annual Letitia Carson Legacy Project Symposium

May 12, 2025

OSU Alumni Center, Willamette Room

8:30am – 9am	<b>Arrival and registration</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee, tea, light breakfast</li> <li>• View the Letitia Carson traveling exhibit</li> <li>• Share ideas with Letitia Carson Legacy Project partners</li> </ul>
9:00 – 9:15am	<b>Welcome</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening the day – <b>Charlotte Epps</b></li> <li>• Letitia Carson Legacy Project in brief – <b>Lauren Gwin</b></li> </ul>
9:10am– 12:45pm	<b>Presentations</b>
9:15- 10:15am	<b>Panel #1: Letitia’s Story</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letitia Carson: America’s first Black Homesteader? – <b>Zachary Stocks</b></li> <li>• Between Mountains and Mothers: Letitia Carson’s Life as a Black Homesteader and Midwife in Douglas County, Oregon – <b>Hailey Brink</b></li> <li>• Farming and foodways at the Carson homestead – <b>Larry Landis</b></li> </ul>
<i>5 minute transition</i>	
10:20 - 11:20am	<b>Panel #2: The Land</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultivating Relationships Through Camas Restoration – <b>Luhui Whitebear</b></li> <li>• Soap Creek Beef Ranch research update – <b>Travis Mulliniks</b></li> <li>• Visions &amp; Tensions: Perspectives on the Carson Donation Land Claim site – <b>Kelly Bosworth &amp; Lauren Gwin</b></li> </ul>
<i>10 minute transition</i>	
11:30 - 12:30pm	<b>Panel #3: The Legacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Oregon Land Trust – <b>Qiddist Ashé</b></li> <li>• Interpretive Themes, Dreams &amp; Schemes: Cultivating Community Experiences on the Carson Lands – <b>Charlotte Epps</b></li> <li>• Stewarding Letitia Carson’s Roseburg homestead – <b>David Stucky</b></li> </ul>
12:30- 12:45pm	<b>Transition to lunch and field trip: short aerial video of the DLC</b>
12:45- 1:20pm	<b>Break for lunch – will be provided! – and then board vans</b>
1:30 – 5pm	<b>Field trip at the Donation Land Claim</b> (time estimate includes the round trip drive)

# Symposium Speakers

## Panel #1: Letitia's story

**Zachary Stocks** is a public historian, interpreter, and the Executive Director of Oregon Black Pioneers. Previously, he was Program Director of Historical Seaport and Visitor Services Manager of Northwest African American Museum, an intern of Colonial Williamsburg and Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, and seasonal Park Ranger at Lewis & Clark National Historical Park. He holds a BA in History from the College of William & Mary, a certificate in Public History from the National Institute for American History and Democracy, and an MA in Museology from Univ. of Washington. Zachary lives in Astoria.

**Hailey Brink** graduated summa cum laude from Portland State University Honors in June 2023 with her Bachelor of Arts in both History and Art History. Her undergraduate thesis, "[Myths, Museums, Mothers, and the Power of Letitia Carson](#)," focused on the archival silences that obscure Black women's pioneer history. She is currently finishing her master's in history at University of Oregon. Her thesis expands on her undergraduate research and focuses on Letitia and another Black midwife and homesteader in Oregon, Silvy Harbor.

**Larry Landis** is co-founder of the Letitia Carson Legacy Project, Benton County Historical Society Board President, former Director of OSU Special Collections and Archives Research Center, and an orchardist and direct market farmer.

## Panel #2: The land

**Luhui Whitebear** is an assistant professor for Indigenous Studies in the School of Language, Culture, and Society at OSU. She is enrolled with the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation and has Huastec and Cochimi ancestry. She is also a mother, poet, and activist engaged in community work locally and statewide. As an Indigenous faculty member, she is committed to honoring and respecting the Tribal nations whose lands and waters OSU is situated on and interacts with. Her research and work institutionally are informed by the Indigenous knowledge systems and beliefs she was raised with.

**Travis Mulliniks** is the Glenn & Mildred Harvey Associate Professor of Beef Cattle Management and Associate Department Head of Animal & Rangeland Sciences at OSU. His expertise and research focus on range livestock nutrition, reproduction, and rangeland ecological management.

**Kelly Bosworth** is Assistant Professor of Public History and Ethnomusicology in the College of Liberal Arts at OSU. Her research sits at the intersection of sound, place, and belonging. Her primary research project amplifies the music/sound/noise of the flooded worker housing community of Vanport, Oregon.

**Lauren Gwin** is co-founder and OSU's lead on the Letitia Carson Legacy Project. She directs the OSU Center for Resilient Agriculture & Food Systems and is the community food systems specialist for OSU Extension.

### **Panel #3: The legacy**

**Qiddist Ashé** is co-founder and Executive Director of Black Oregon Land Trust. BOLT ensures that Black communities have secure and affordable land access, protected ecosystems, and earth stewardship skills to create thriving futures through unprecedented change.

**Charlotte Epps** (she/they) is a place-based storyteller, land steward, plant lover, and community organizer. Since graduating from OSU in Spring 2023, they have served the LCLP as a Community Engagement Consultant. She is passionate about building bridges between people, cultures and disciplines, in devotion to nurturing a more equitable and sustainable future.

**David Stucky** currently lives on and stewards land in the South Myrtle Creek valley which includes the site of the Letitia Carson homestead east of Myrtle Creek, Oregon. He has lived in Oregon since 1989. With his partner, Kristin Koons, he is working to (re) establish heirloom apple orchards, restore native habitat, and farm in ways that honor the long history of the land.

Letitia Carson Legacy Project:

<https://letitiacarson.oregonstate.edu>