



# BEND

OR

**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**

[03.17.2026]

# AGENDA



- A. 9:00 - **Introductions** - Jeff Knapp, Visit Bend
  - B. 9:05 - **Approval of January Meeting Minutes** [vote needed] - Brandon Tyler
  - C. 9:10 - **Financial Report for FY 26 Year-to-Date** [vote needed] - Daniel Elder
  - D. 9:20 - **Visitor Data and Destination Performance** - Nate Wyeth
  - E. 9:30 - **Bend Sustainability Fund Grant Recommendations** [vote needed] - Zavier Borja
  - F. 9:55 - **Visit Bend Bylaws Updates** [vote needed] - Jeff Knapp + Brandon Tyler
  - G. 10:05 - **New Board Members** [vote needed] - Jeff Knapp + Brandon Tyler
  - H. 10:15 - **Visit Bend Organizational Updates** - Jeff Knapp
    - a. FY26 Budgeting and strategic planning timeline
  - I. 10:20 - **Board Comment**
  - J. 10:25 - **Public Comment**
- 10:30 - Adjourn

**SAY HI!**

# INTRODUCTIONS

Please introduce yourself as your full name and organization you're representing.

# MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY '26 MINUTES: REVIEW, MOTION, APPROVE

Recommended motion: I move to approve the January 2026 public meeting minutes

**FINANCIAL NARRATIVE, P+L FOR VISIT BEND AND GRANT PROGRAMS, ACCOUNT SUMMARIES**

# **FINANCIAL REPORTING PACKAGE**

DANIEL ELDER - VISIT BEND

- **Revenue** came in at \$16.3K less than budget for February 2026, due to a downtick in City Funding receipts for the month. Revenue for year-to-date is \$251K better than budget through February 28, 2026, due to higher than budgeted City Funding receipts as well as healthy Retail Sales.
- February 2026 **Personnel expenditures** were \$2.9K less than budget for the month, and are at \$34K less than budget for the year-to-date. This is in part due to a vacant Sales position that is now filled as of 10/1/25.
- **Grant Programs** were less than budget by \$2.9K for February 2026. This reflects the City Funding receipts for January 2026, of which a percentage is passed on to the grant programs. Year-to-date Grant Program expenditures are \$52.8K higher than budget due to excellent City funding receipts in the first months of the fiscal year.
- **Sales & Marketing expenditures** expenditures for February 2026 were right on budget, with year-to-date at \$13K less than budget.
- February 2026 **Overhead expenses** were \$4K less than budget for the month, mainly due to savings in Education & Training expense and Travel & Meals. Year-to-date Overhead expenditures are \$6.6K more than budget through February 28, 2026..
- February 2026 ended with a Net Deficit of \$102K, which was worse than budget by \$6.9K, due to the lower than budgeted City Funding receipts. **Year-to-date Net Surplus is \$238K better than budget**, due to the early months of very healthy City Funding revenue and additional healthy revenue from Retail Sales.
- **Cash on hand** remained fairly constant in February 2026, with a total cash balance of \$3,569,790.
- **The Balance Sheet remained healthy** as of February 2026, with no variances of note.

## Visit Bend

### Budget-to-Actual P&L Analysis

For the period ended February 28, 2026

	February 2026				Year-to-Date thru 2/28/26			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var. %	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var. %
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>259,636</b>	<b>276,900</b>	<b>(17,264)</b>	<b>(6.2%)</b>	<b>3,907,090</b>	<b>3,656,500</b>	<b>250,590</b>	<b>6.85%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
Total Personnel	145,509	148,416	(2,907)	(2.0%)	1,205,055	1,239,103	(34,048)	(2.75%)
Total Grant Programs	57,713	61,100	(3,387)	(5.5%)	865,605	812,800	52,805	6.50%
Total Sales & Marketing	131,752	131,874	(122)	(0.1%)	1,022,064	1,035,028	(12,964)	(1.25%)
Total Overhead	26,564	30,541	(3,977)	(13.0%)	255,632	249,028	6,604	2.65%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>361,538</b>	<b>371,931</b>	<b>(10,393)</b>	<b>(2.8%)</b>	<b>3,348,356</b>	<b>3,335,959</b>	<b>12,397</b>	<b>0.37%</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(101,901)</b>	<b>(95,031)</b>	<b>(6,870)</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>558,733</b>	<b>320,541</b>	<b>238,192</b>	<b>74.31%</b>

**Bend Sustainability Fund  
Budget vs Actual P&L Activity  
For the period ended February 28, 2026**

	February 2026				Year-to-Date thru 2/28/2026			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var. %	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var. %
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$ 38,475	\$ 41,200	\$ (2,725)	(6.6%)	\$ 579,263	\$ 545,900	\$ 33,363	6.1%
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	\$ 1,156	\$ 5,040	\$ (3,884)	(77.1%)	\$ 114,147	\$ 102,655	\$ 11,492	11.2%
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 37,319</b>	<b>\$ 36,160</b>	<b>\$ 1,159</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>\$ 465,116</b>	<b>\$ 443,245</b>	<b>\$ 21,871</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<b>Fund Balance - Before Grants</b>					<b>\$ 1,333,532</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,504</b>	<b>\$ 37,028</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Bend Sustainability Fund Grants Paid in FY</b>					\$ 26,676	\$ -	26,676	
<b>Fund Balance - After Grants</b>					<b>\$ 1,306,856</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,504</b>	<b>\$ 10,352</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

**\* Budgeted at 15% of Total Visit Bend City Funding revenue for FY 2026  
Grants Paid Budget to be determined later in fiscal year**

**Bend Cultural Tourism Fund  
Budget vs Actual P&L Activity  
For the period ended February 28, 2026**

	February 2026				Year-to-Date thru 2/28/2026			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var. %	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var. %
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$ 19,238	\$ 20,400	\$ (1,162)	(5.7%)	\$ 288,527	\$ 270,900	\$ 17,627	6.5%
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	\$ 10,017	\$ 11,515	\$ (1,499)	(13.0%)	\$ 40,503	\$ 48,900	\$ (8,397)	(17.2%)
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 9,221</b>	<b>\$ 8,885</b>	<b>\$ 336</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>\$ 248,024</b>	<b>\$ 222,000</b>	<b>\$ 26,024</b>	<b>11.7%</b>
<b>Fund Balance - Before Grants</b>					<b>\$ 614,638</b>	<b>\$ 532,433</b>	<b>\$ 82,205</b>	<b>15.4%</b>
<b>Cultural Tourism Fund Grants Paid in FY</b>					\$ 277,000	\$ 208,000	69,000	33.2%
<b>Fund Balance - After Grants</b>					<b>\$ 337,638</b>	<b>\$ 324,433</b>	<b>\$ 13,205</b>	<b>4.1%</b>

\* Budgeted at 7.5% of Total Visit Bend City Funding revenue for FY 2026

Operating Account

**\$1,333,863**

Bend Sustainability Fund

**\$1,306,855**

Bend Cultural Tourism Fund

**\$345,137**

Rainy Day Fund

**\$516,678**

Wind Down Fund

**\$109,690**

# **FINANCIAL REPORTING PACKAGE VOTE**

Recommended motion: I move to adopt and approve Visit Bend's February 2026 financial report as presented.

**VISITOR DATA AND DESTINATION PERFORMANCE**

# **TOURISM INDUSTRY BRIEFING**

NATE WYETH - CHIEF OF STAFF

STR DEMAND (FEB '26)

46,968

+1.4% YOY

STR ADR (FEB '26)

\$110.92

+0.7% YOY

AIRDNA DEMAND (FEB '26)

14,877

-11.8% YOY

AIRDNA ADR (FEB '26)

\$110

-6.8% YOY

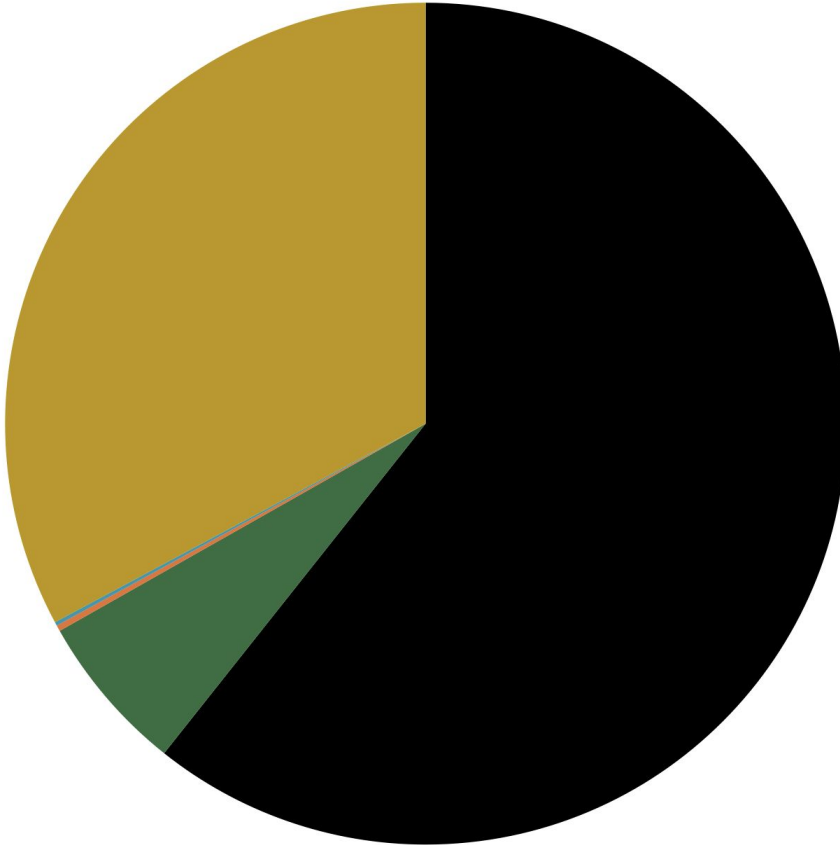
**DESCHUTES COUNTY - TRT COLLECTION**

	FY 18/19	CHANGE	FY19/20	CHANGE	FY20/21	CHANGE	FY21/22	CHANGE	FY22/23	CHANGE	FY23/24	CHANGE	FY24/25	CHANGE	FY 25/26	CHANGE
JUL	\$ 1,667,996	10.1%	\$ 1,748,181	4.8%	\$ 1,690,203	-3.3%	\$ 2,295,727	35.8%	\$ 2,586,540	12.7%	\$ 2,565,305	-0.8%	\$ 2,569,948	0.2%	\$ 2,578,186	0.3%
AUG	\$ 1,413,522	-3.7%	\$ 1,555,799	10.1%	\$ 1,719,672	10.5%	\$ 2,090,076	21.5%	\$ 2,099,469	0.4%	\$ 2,087,111	-0.6%	\$ 1,991,747	-4.6%	\$ 2,079,664	4.4%
SEP	\$ 610,968	15.5%	\$ 793,230	29.8%	\$ 843,768	6.4%	\$ 1,031,327	22.2%	\$ 1,051,435	1.9%	\$ 1,041,361	-1.0%	\$ 970,045	-6.8%	\$ 1,046,617	7.9%
OCT	\$ 364,516	-7.5%	\$ 354,406	-2.8%	\$ 863,986	143.8%	\$ 612,353	-29.1%	\$ 661,739	8.1%	\$ 594,840	-10.1%	\$ 561,597	-5.6%	\$ 614,620	9.4%
NOV	\$ 286,147	7.2%	\$ 297,571	4.0%	\$ 447,254	50.3%	\$ 537,384	20.2%	\$ 497,445	-7.4%	\$ 488,910	-1.7%	\$ 522,630	6.9%	\$ 522,543	0.0%
DEC	\$ 472,507	12.1%	\$ 554,419	17.3%	\$ 705,084	27.2%	\$ 826,847	17.3%	\$ 759,709	-8.1%	\$ 715,793	-5.8%	\$ 795,668	11.2%	\$ 743,237	-6.8%
JAN	\$ 414,665	31.5%	\$ 471,140	13.6%	\$ 761,842	61.7%	\$ 784,606	3.0%	\$ 722,508	-7.9%	\$ 630,377	-12.8%	\$ 723,071	14.7%		-100.0%
FEB	\$ 351,432	26.7%	\$ 362,855	3.3%	\$ 686,770	89.3%	\$ 690,582	0.6%	\$ 629,911	-8.8%	\$ 592,725	-5.9%	\$ 610,495	3.0%		-100.0%
MAR	\$ 343,289	-15.7%	\$ 159,828	-53.4%	\$ 792,257	395.7%	\$ 952,317	20.2%	\$ 648,993	-31.9%	\$ 688,300	6.1%	\$ 798,731	16.0%		-100.0%
APR	\$ 406,383	48.9%	\$ 33,029	-91.9%	\$ 699,039	2016.4%	\$ 959,041	37.2%	\$ 699,744	-27.0%	\$ 685,040	-2.1%	\$ 579,070	-15.5%		-100.0%
MAY	\$ 524,883	29.2%	\$ 224,100	-57.3%	\$ 853,148	280.7%	\$ 775,228	-9.1%	\$ 755,425	-2.6%	\$ 818,357	8.3%	\$ 869,145	6.2%		-100.0%
JUN	\$ 973,143	27.7%	\$ 1,006,259	3.4%	\$ 1,422,603	41.4%	\$ 1,540,542	8.3%	\$ 1,465,786	-4.9%	\$ 1,547,217	5.6%	\$ 1,722,177	11.3%		-100.0%
\$	\$ 4,815,856	4.8%	\$ 5,303,606	10.1%	\$ 6,269,967	18.2%	\$ 7,393,714	17.9%	\$ 7,656,337	3.6%	\$ 7,493,320	-2.1%	\$ 7,411,635	-1.1%	\$ 7,584,867	2.3%
FY END	\$ 7,829,451	11.3%	\$ 7,560,817	-3.4%	\$ 11,485,626	51.9%	\$ 13,096,030	14.0%	\$ 12,578,704	-4.0%	\$ 12,455,336	-1.0%	\$ 12,714,324	1.1%	\$ 7,584,867	-39.1%

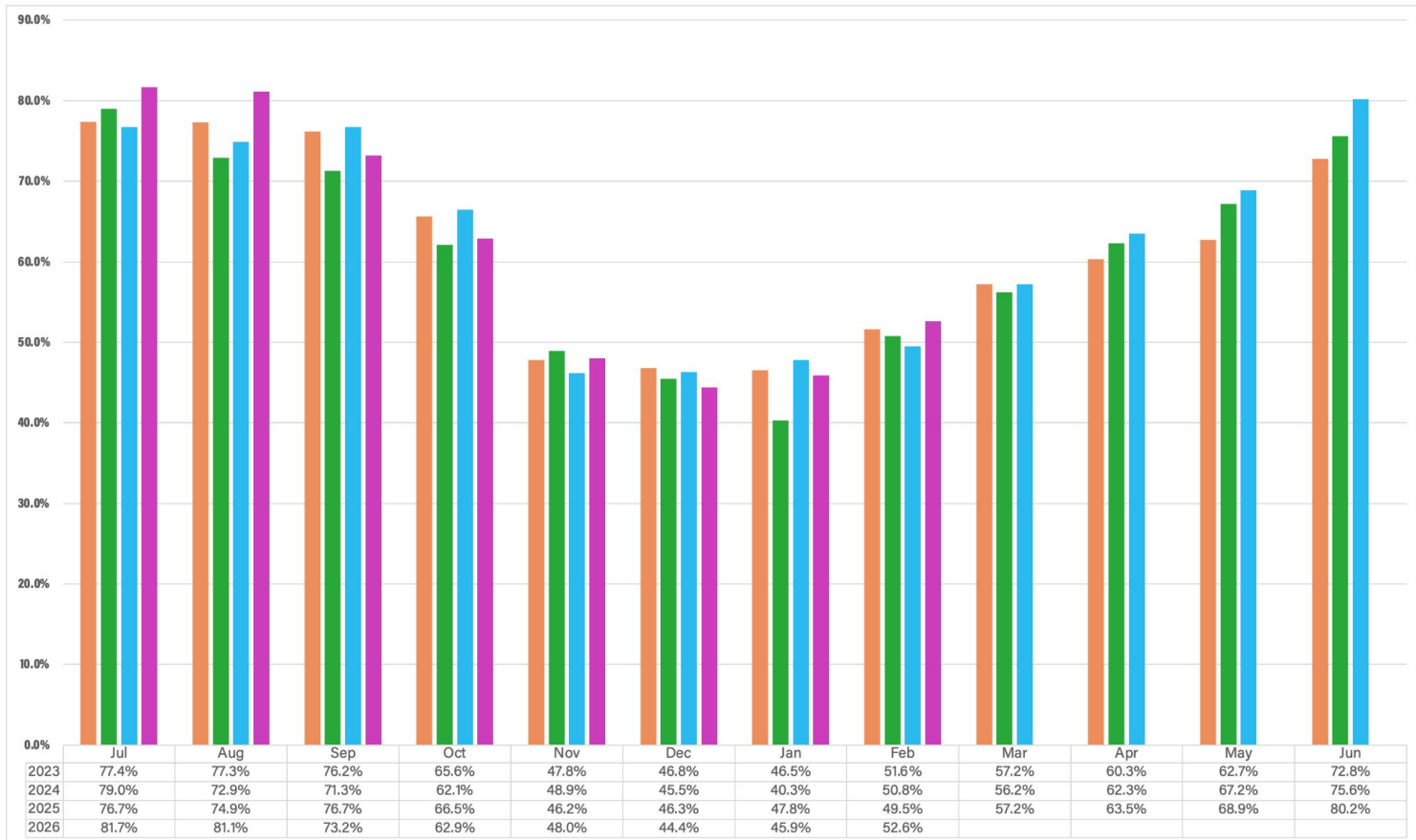
**CITY OF BEND - TRT COLLECTION**

	FY18/19	CHANGE	FY19/20	CHANGE	FY20/21	CHANGE	FY21/22	CHANGE	FY22/23	CHANGE	FY23/24	CHANGE	FY24/25	CHANGE	FY24/25	CHANGE
JUL	\$ 1,392,621	-1.6%	\$ 1,577,435	13.3%	\$ 1,236,038	-21.6%	\$ 2,103,826	70.2%	\$ 2,171,219	3.2%	\$ 2,307,659	6.3%	\$ 2,128,891	-7.7%	\$ 2,306,288	8.3%
	\$ 1,343,928	-0.3%	\$ 1,458,091	8.5%	\$ 1,324,905	-9.1%	\$ 1,750,688	32.1%	\$ 1,934,363	10.5%	\$ 1,827,477	-5.5%	\$ 1,737,356	-4.9%	\$ 2,132,983	22.8%
SEP	\$ 945,580	15.2%	\$ 1,021,681	8.0%	\$ 883,269	-13.5%	\$ 1,286,021	45.6%	\$ 1,476,579	14.8%	\$ 1,405,440	-4.8%	\$ 1,431,393	1.8%	\$ 1,381,806	-3.5%
OCT	\$ 734,036	12.8%	\$ 795,824	8.4%	\$ 901,163	13.2%	\$ 1,019,624	13.1%	\$ 1,068,055	4.7%	\$ 1,039,060	-2.7%	\$ 1,102,605	6.1%	\$ 1,032,561	-6.4%
NOV	\$ 495,457	16.2%	\$ 539,082	8.8%	\$ 489,540	-9.2%	\$ 765,636	56.4%	\$ 695,613	-9.1%	\$ 677,204	-2.6%	\$ 639,631	-5.5%	\$ 752,938	17.7%
DEC	\$ 567,940	12.0%	\$ 592,581	4.3%	\$ 524,108	-11.8%	\$ 775,699	48.0%	\$ 772,035	-0.5%	\$ 710,152	-8.0%	\$ 722,012	1.7%	\$ 747,082	3.5%
JAN	\$ 554,007	16.4%	\$ 595,797	7.5%	\$ 626,991	5.2%	\$ 853,484	36.1%	\$ 808,091	-5.3%	\$ 627,949	-22.3%	\$ 787,185	25.4%	\$ 731,776	-7.0%
FEB	\$ 533,904	6.8%	\$ 656,403	22.9%	\$ 635,546	-3.2%	\$ 912,789	43.8%	\$ 795,392	-12.9%	\$ 766,920	-3.6%	\$ 776,345	1.2%		-100.0%
MAR	\$ 741,513	10.1%	\$ 335,846	-54.7%	\$ 967,399	188.0%	\$ 1,130,033	16.8%	\$ 965,623	-14.5%	\$ 957,239	-0.9%	\$ 992,410	3.7%		-100.0%
APR	\$ 737,773	6.8%	\$ 120,155	-83.7%	\$ 953,833	693.8%	\$ 1,202,511	26.1%	\$ 995,855	-17.2%	\$ 961,859	-3.4%	\$ 1,018,420	5.9%		-100.0%
MAY	\$ 915,959	14.0%	\$ 311,063	-66.0%	\$ 1,050,833	237.8%	\$ 1,235,754	17.8%	\$ 1,229,384	-0.5%	\$ 1,295,071	5.3%	\$ 1,431,929	10.6%		-100.0%
JUN	\$ 1,210,933	11.9%	\$ 770,499	-36.4%	\$ 1,481,941	92.3%	\$ 1,544,686	4.3%	\$ 1,778,528	15.1%	\$ 1,801,272	1.3%	\$ 1,812,970	0.6%		-100.0%
FYTD	\$ 6,033,567	6.9%	\$ 6,580,491	9.1%	\$ 5,986,014	-9.0%	\$ 8,554,978	42.9%	\$ 8,925,955	4.3%	\$ 8,594,941	-3.7%	\$ 8,549,074	-0.5%	\$ 9,085,435	6.3%
FY End	\$ 10,173,649	8.3%	\$ 8,774,457	-13.8%	\$ 11,075,116	26.2%	\$ 14,580,751	31.7%	\$ 14,690,737	0.8%	\$ 14,377,302	-2.1%	\$ 14,581,147	1.4%	\$ 9,085,435	-37.7%

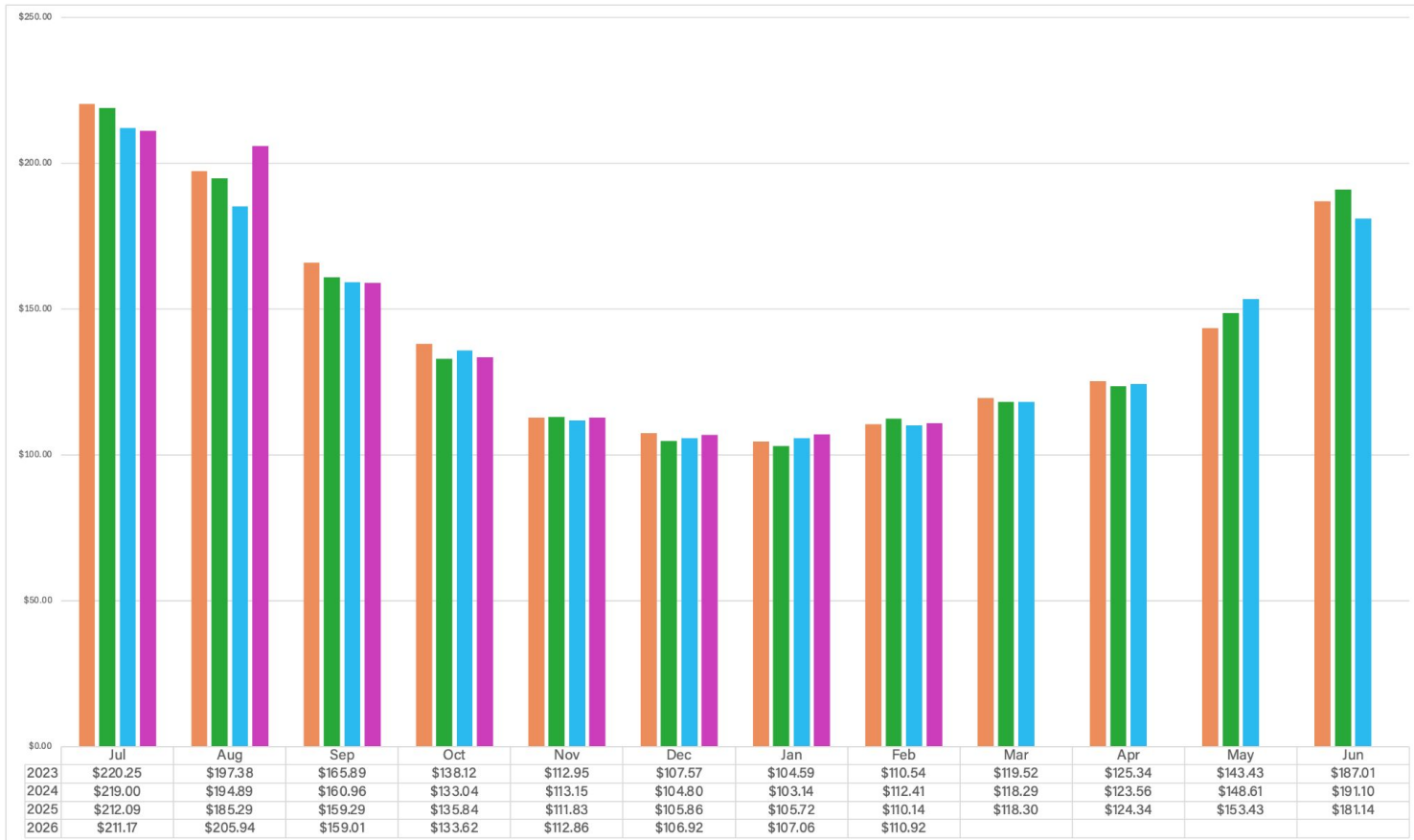
Indicates Historical High For That Specific Month  
 Months Affected by COVID-19 Pandemic

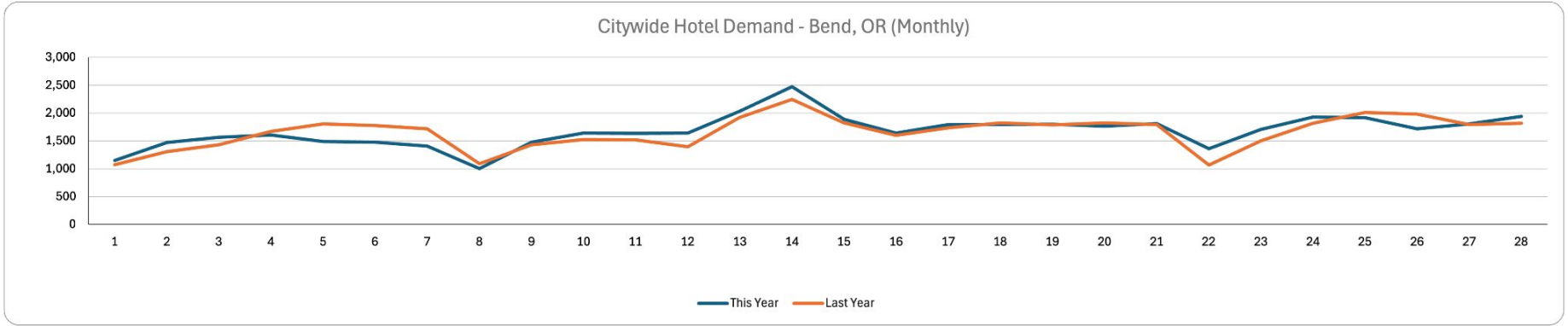


Hotel = \$448,678  
Vacation Rental = \$45,276  
B&B = \$1,694  
RV Park = \$1,044  
Airbnb = \$242,675



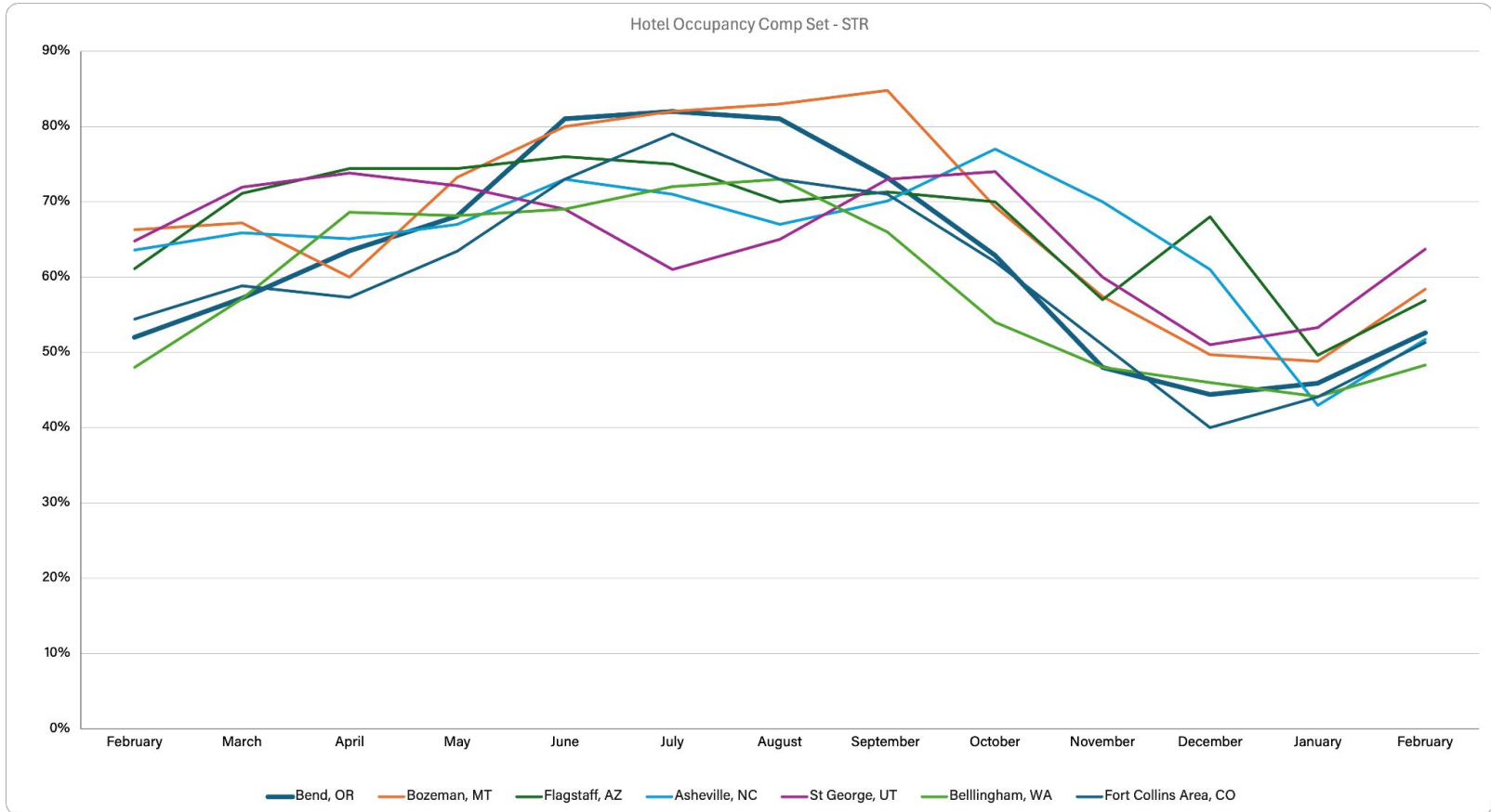
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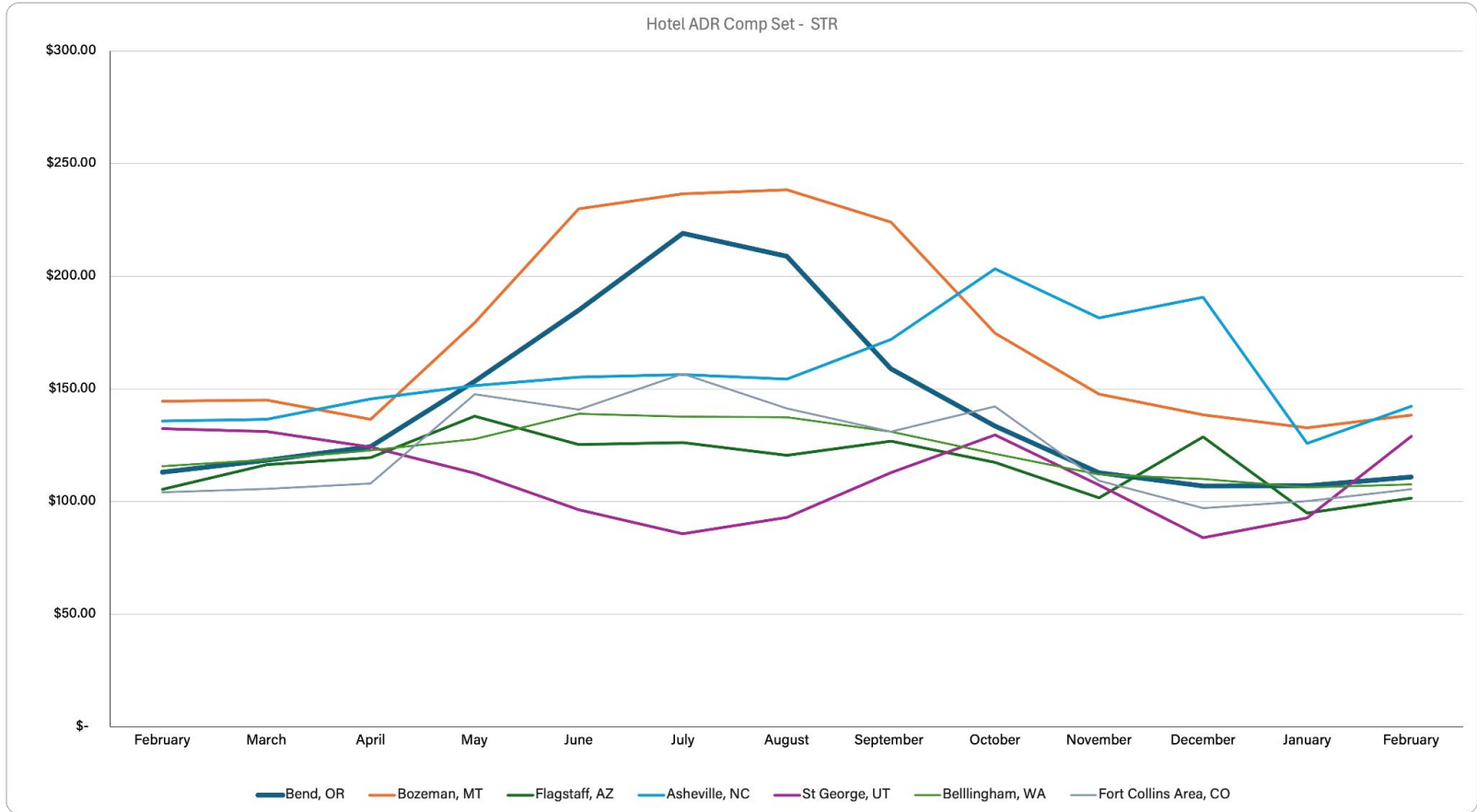




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**FY26 BSF GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS + BOARD VOTE**

# **BEND SUSTAINABILITY FUND**

ZAVIER BORJA, VISIT BEND

# **BEND SUSTAINABILITY FUND**

The Bend Sustainability Fund provides grants to shovel-ready projects that can hit the ground running (i.e. all known barriers that would inhibit the start or completion of the project have been cleared). Funding for these grants is made possible through tax revenue generated through short-term lodging tax paid by visitors. BSF funding criteria must align with Oregon State statute and Bend city code.

# **BEND SUSTAINABILITY FUND [FUNDING CRITERIA]**

The Bend Sustainability Fund awards grants to shovel-ready projects meeting the following criteria:

- Will protect, steward or create a tourism-related facility with an impactful life of >10 years
- Said facility will have substantial use by visitors
- Has a clear timeline and measurable outcomes within the next 12 months
- Has grassroots, community support

# CONSENSUS BUILDING THROUGH THE BEND SUSTAINABILITY FUND CHARTER

- Well-informed funding decisions are made through an inclusive, accessible, and transparent process.
- BSF grants help advance shared goals with community partners.
- Consistent messaging is used to help shift public perception and improve resident sentiment so the broader Bend community values visitors and BSF funded projects.
- Grant requests come from community members with identities that vary across race, geography, language, culture, religion, expertise, age, disability, gender, and sexual orientation.
- Grant recommendations are strongly aligned with VB's mission and organizational goals, supporting Bend's community, economy, and the environment.



# TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY APPROACH

The Bend Sustainability Fund upholds Visit Bend's values and integrate Trust-Based Philanthropy guiding principles.

- **We operate with honesty and integrity.**
  - ◆ Work for systemic equity
  - ◆ Center relationships
- **We are respectful and compassionate.**
  - ◆ Partner in a spirit of service
  - ◆ Be accountable
- **We are courageous, creative, and innovative.**
  - ◆ Redistribute power
  - ◆ Embrace learning
- **We are committed to the highest level of fiscal responsibility.**

## [FUNDING CRITERIA] **STATE + LOCAL ROOM TAX LAWS**

### [HB 2267 (2003) and ORS 320.300]

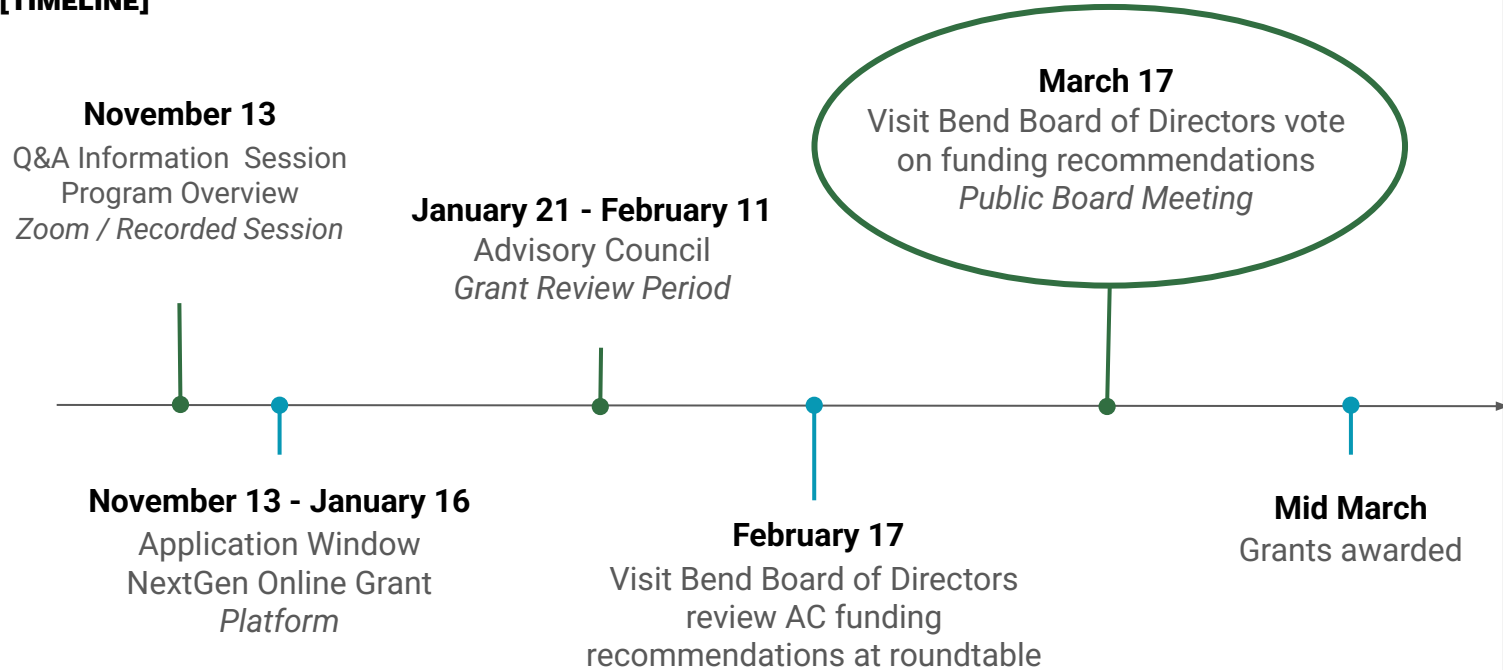
Under these laws and state statutes, a unit of local government may impose and collect local lodging taxes. Here in Bend we call that TRT, short for transient room tax. Those laws clearly define how that money collected from visitors must be spent:

**The Bend Sustainability Fund awards grants to projects that fit the legal definition of Tourism-Related Facility.**

- **“Tourism-Related Facility” means:**
- ◆ **(a) A conference center, convention center or visitor information center; and**
  - ◆ **(b) Other improved real property that has a useful life of 10 or more years and has a substantial purpose of supporting tourism or accommodating tourist activities.**

# BEND SUSTAINABILITY FUND

[TIMELINE]



# FISCAL YEAR 2026 - BSF BUDGET OVERVIEW

Actual Fund Balance as of 7/1/25	\$742,403
Allocated Year #2 Funds	- \$35,000
BSF Budgeted Expenses	- \$157,615
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE:</b>	<b>\$549,788</b>

# PROPOSED PROJECTS

- **The Environmental Center:** create a regional reuse system, replacing single-use packaging with durable reusable tableware, collection stations, and a centralized commercial dishwashing facility. Reducing waste for food carts and events.
- **Volcanic Theatre:** upgrade the theater to a 500-person capacity, including new sound-control equipment and acoustics ready for national acts. Upgraded lighting and lasers for modern experiences with new, refined decor, and distinct art.
- **The Onward Project:** add three additional adaptive adventure chairs to the existing fleet, bringing their total to six. In addition, this will include a 14-foot-long box trailer for transporting those chairs. The trailer will also serve as a mobile kiosk, helping inform visitors of the location and use of accessible trails.
- **GNT Holdings:** fully redevelop the Crux property into a safe, accessible and welcoming outdoor gathering space for visitors and locals alike. This redevelopment space would be used for year-round activities, including a playscape, synthetic turf, and adding 2-3 more food carts, as well as hosting 10-15 events geared towards visitors and locals.
- **Oregon Adaptive Sports:** create an adaptive cycling center where programs serving locals and visitors can take place on the east side of Bend.
- **Glick Forestry:** install 14 boot-brush stations at some of Bend's most heavily trafficked trailheads to reduce, eradicate, or prevent the establishment of invasive species within 2 miles of these trailheads.

# PROPOSED PROJECTS

- **Peterson Rock Garden:** upgrade all property signage by installing a new welcome sign at the entrance, replacing the old admission sign, adding new museum signs, and adding new important Information signs to the property.
- **Central Oregon Disc Golf Club:** upgrade the wayfinding and tee signage to improve navigation; add safety signage to alert non-players to course activity; and install a course message board to support orientation and communication.
- **Mt. Bachelor:** accessibility improvements at the Sunrise Lodge. A ramp from the upper level to the snow, allowing guests of all abilities to move independently between the building and the chairlift. Push buttons at key access points for easier entry and exit, and the design and fabrication of permanent wayfinding signage to direct guests to accessible routes.
- **Deschutes Trails Coalition:** will replace old stairs and install A functional, sustainable, and professionally constructed staircase, allowing safe, continuous use for decades on the popular Base Trail around Pilot Butte.
- **Campfire Hotel:** accommodate a broad spectrum of programming that celebrates creativity and connection. Its adaptable layout allows it to transform easily to meet the needs of different events, making it a versatile addition to Bend's cultural infrastructure and a unique complement to the Campfire Hotel campus.
- **Tower Theatre:** Installation of the new lighting console and the training of technical staff at the Tower, making it an accessible and comfortable place for an authentic Bend experience.
- **Central Oregon Trails Alliance:** will install six ride-over cattleguards at critical points where trails cross fencing, removing barriers and enhancing the riding experience, especially for those using adaptive bikes.

# CENTRAL OREGON WASH HUB

**Organization:** The Environmental Center

**Statement of Success:**

Success looks like a fully operating Wash Hub, that has already saved a quarter million pieces of single-use items and is positioned to scale beyond the grant period. A successful project results in a self-sustaining reuse system that businesses choose because it is easy, affordable, and aligned with Bend's values.

Success also means establishing a new norm, where reusable serviceware is expected and the default at Central Oregon's most visible community spaces. Creating a culture shift where we're all automatically more mindful of our impact when it comes to how we use, consume, and dispose of materials on a daily basis.

**Amount requested:** \$148,627

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$100,000

# **VOLCANIC THEATRE MODERNIZATION UPGRADES**

**Organization:** Volcanic Theatre

**Statement of Success:**

Ultimate success for Volcanic Theatre and this project will be the next level of experience in music and entertainment for a 500-person capacity venue, rivaling the best comparably-sized venues in Portland. We will have new upgraded sound control equipment and acoustic design for smoother production and facilities ready for national acts. We will have upgraded lighting and lasers for modern experiences, particularly electronic music. We will have new refined decor, and distinct art including murals and panels, that improve the feel and opportunities for pictures and social media. And we will upgrade quality and capacity for private and seated events.

**Amount requested:** \$88,395

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$38,470

# BUILDING ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE IN CENTRAL OREGON

Organization: The Onward Project

## Statement of Success:

Upon completion, we will have added three AdvenChairs (to our existing fleet of three), a 14 foot long box trailer for transportation of the chairs, and a small shipping container for storage of inventory. (The container will be stored on the premises of Heliladder in Bend.) This increased infrastructure will enable us to expand our existing program of providing equipment and experiences to those with mobility challenges who visit our area, as well as locals. Besides transportation of chairs, the trailer will also act as a mobile kiosk informing visitors of the location and use of accessible trails.

**Amount requested:** \$61,850

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$61,850

# COMMUNITY and VISITOR EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENT

**Organization:** GNT Holdings LLC

**Statement of Success:**

Success means the property is fully redeveloped into a safe, accessible, and welcoming outdoor gathering space that is actively used by both residents and visitors. Upon completion, the site supports large and small group gatherings, hosts community and tourism-related events, and provides new economic opportunities for local food vendors and retail businesses. The space functions year-round, reduces water use through sustainable design, and feels inclusive for all ages and abilities. Most importantly, success looks like a familiar Bend gathering place that is preserved in spirit, but strengthened to serve the community for generations to come.

**Amount requested:** \$200,000

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$0

# ADAPTIVE CYCLING CENTER AT PINE NURSERY PARK

**Organization:** Oregon Adaptive Sports

**Statement of Success:**

By fall of 2026, Bend, Oregon will be home to just the third Adaptive Cycling Center on the West Coast. Currently there are similar such centers only in San Francisco and Seattle. This building will house approximately three dozen state-of-the-art adaptive cycles that accommodate individuals of all ages and of all disabilities. Going forward, this facility will provide access to high-quality cycling experiences for hundreds of individuals with disabilities and their family and friends each year.

**Amount requested:** \$63,747

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$63,747

# BOOT BRUSH STATIONS

**Organization:** Glick Forestry

**Statement of Success:**

There will be easily measured outcomes via measuring invasive weed presence. Success will be the reduction, eradication or non-establishment of invasive species at the trailhead and within 2 miles.

**The following National Forest trailheads are proposed:**

- Rim Rock
- Tumalo Falls
- Meadow Camp
- Benham Falls West
- Benham Falls East
- Green Lakes
- Sisters Mirror Lakes
- Horse Butte

**The following Bureau of Land Management trailheads are proposed:**

- Huntington Wagon Road
- Flat Iron
- Larry Chitwood
- Badlands Rock
- Whychus Canyon
- Chimney Rock

**Amount requested:** \$16,989

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$16,989

# NEW SIGNAGE AT PETERSON ROCK GARDEN

**Organization:** Peterson Rock Garden

**Statement of Success:**

The new signage will improve our visibility and attractiveness for tourists, visitors and the public. As we continue our mission to restore this historic landmark the new signs will reinforce our identity, help make the rock garden and museum stand out, communicating key info (like hours; parking museum location, etc.), and creating a professional, trustworthy impression. It will also modernize the visitor experience and the look of the property as the signs will replace old signs.

**Amount requested:** \$5,148

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$5,148

# MOUNTAINS ARE FOR EVERYONE

**Organization:** Mt. Bachelor

**Statement of Success:**

Success for this project means that Sunrise Lodge is measurably more accessible, welcoming, and navigable for guests of all abilities, translating to greater independence, dignity, and enjoyment for adaptive skiers and riders and other users with limited mobility or disabilities.

From a tourism perspective, success entails increased confidence among visitors when planning a trip to Bend and Mt. Bachelor. The accessibility-focused video, combined with infrastructure improvements, positions Mt. Bachelor and Bend as leaders in inclusive outdoor recreation.

We will measure success through testimonials, improved guest survey scores related to accessibility, and increased positive media coverage during the project and after completion.

**Amount requested:** \$155,263

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$50,000

# SKYLINE DISK GOLF COURSE

**Organization:** Central Oregon Disk Golf Club

**Statement of Success:**

Project success will be defined by transforming Skyline Park's existing 9-hole disc golf course into a safer, year-round, inclusive, and user-friendly destination serving both new and competitive players. The completed course will feature improved infrastructure, clear play areas, and a formalized layout that enhances usability while remaining compatible with other park users. Safety enhancements will reduce conflicts and support positive shared use. Durable construction, improved drainage, and erosion control will minimize environmental impacts. The project will result in a high-quality recreational asset that supports sustainable tourism, encourages repeat visitation, and provides lasting community benefit.

**Amount requested:** \$15,000

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$15,000

# PILOT BUTTE BASE TRAIL SAFETY & RESTORATION PROJECT

**Organization:** Deschutes Trails Coalition

**Statement of Success:**

A functional, sustainable, and professionally constructed staircase allowing safe continuous use for decades, and provides enjoyment to local and visiting hikers, runners, dog walkers, and school children around this unique and centrally located geologic feature. Replacing and adding these steps will make the trail safer for people with mobility challenges by providing a stable surface on which to descend and ascend this trail. The Bend-La Pine School District does not have the funding or capacity to repair trail infrastructure and without outside funding this trail segment faces the threat of closure which would affect the entire Pilot Butte Trail network.

**Amount requested:** \$60,395

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$56,396

# THE CAMPFIRE DREAM TENT

**Organization:** Campfire Hotel

**Statement of Success:**

Infusing the Bend Central District with a vibrant new space for creative expression, the venue will showcase performances and events from across the community. Programming will include concerts by students from the Cascade School of Music, arts and crafts markets, drag brunches, and a wide range of dynamic cultural experiences. Measurable outcomes include robust, ongoing programming—such as musical and theatrical performances, visual art events, and community gatherings—that the Bend community at large, and the Bend Central District in particular, will enjoy and celebrate for years to come.

**Amount requested:** \$97,940

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$0

# LIGHTNING A LEGACY

**Organization:** Tower Theatre

**Statement of Success:**

Success will be completed installation of the new lighting console and other gear as well as complete training of technical staff. However, our goal is not just new gear for our artists and crew but for residents and visitors to recommend, remember, and return to the Tower as an accessible and comfortable place for an authentic Bend experience.

**Amount requested:** \$80,000

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$80,000

# CLINE BUTTE AND CASCADE VIEW BARRIER-FREE TRAIL ENHANCEMENTS

**Organization:** Central Oregon Trails Alliance

**Statement of Success:**

The six ride-over cattle guards are installed and functioning as intended before the busy winter 2026-2027 riding season. Reports from trail users confirm that the ride-overs enhance their riding experience, especially those using adaptive bikes. COTA continues to have a positive relationships with the BLM and the grazing permittee that needs the fences in the area to manage their herds.

**Amount requested:** \$11,400

**BSF Council Recommended Amount:** \$11,400

# RECOMMENDED FUNDING SCENARIO

	Organization	Amount Requested	BSF Council Recommended Amount	Difference	Average Score
Consensus - YES	Central Oregon Environmental Center	\$148,627	100,000.00	\$48,627	131.5
Consensus - YES	Volcanic Theatre Pub	\$88,395	\$38,470	\$49,925	116.67
Consensus - YES	The Onward Project	\$61,850	\$61,850	\$0	128.33
Consensus - YES	Oregon Adaptive Sports	\$63,747	\$63,747.00	\$0	134
Consensus - YES	Glick Forestry LLC	\$16,989	\$16,989	\$0	106
Consensus - YES	Peterson Rock Garden	\$5,148	\$5,148.00	\$0	112
Consensus - YES	Central Oregon Disk Golf	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	136.5
Consensus - NO	Campfire Hotel	\$97,940	\$0	\$97,940	108.5
Consensus - NO	GNT Holdings	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	101.11
Consensus - YES	Mt. Bachelor	\$155,263	\$51,000	\$104,263	112.5
Consensus - YES	Deschutes Trails Coalition	\$60,395	\$56,396	\$3,999	131
Consensus - YES	Tower Theatre	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0	130
Consensus - YES	Central Oregon Trails Alliance	\$11,400	\$11,400	\$0	143
	<b>Subtotals</b>	\$1,004,754	\$500,000	\$504,754	122.3930769
	Amount Requested	\$1,004,754			
	<b>Amount Recommended</b>	\$500,000			
	Amount Available	\$500,000			
	Difference			\$0	

## **FY25 BSF GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS + BOARD VOTE**

# **BSF VOTE**

Recommended motion: I move to approve the Bend Sustainability Fund Advisory Council recommendations to award \$500,000 to eleven organizations as presented in accordance with Oregon state law governing the use or transient lodging tax.

# VISIT BEND BYLAW UPDATES

Recommended Motion: I move to adopt the amendment to Visit Bend's board of directors bylaws, increasing the executive committee from three to four members.

**WELCOME TO THE BOARD, WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

# **NEW VISIT BEND BOARD MEMBERS**

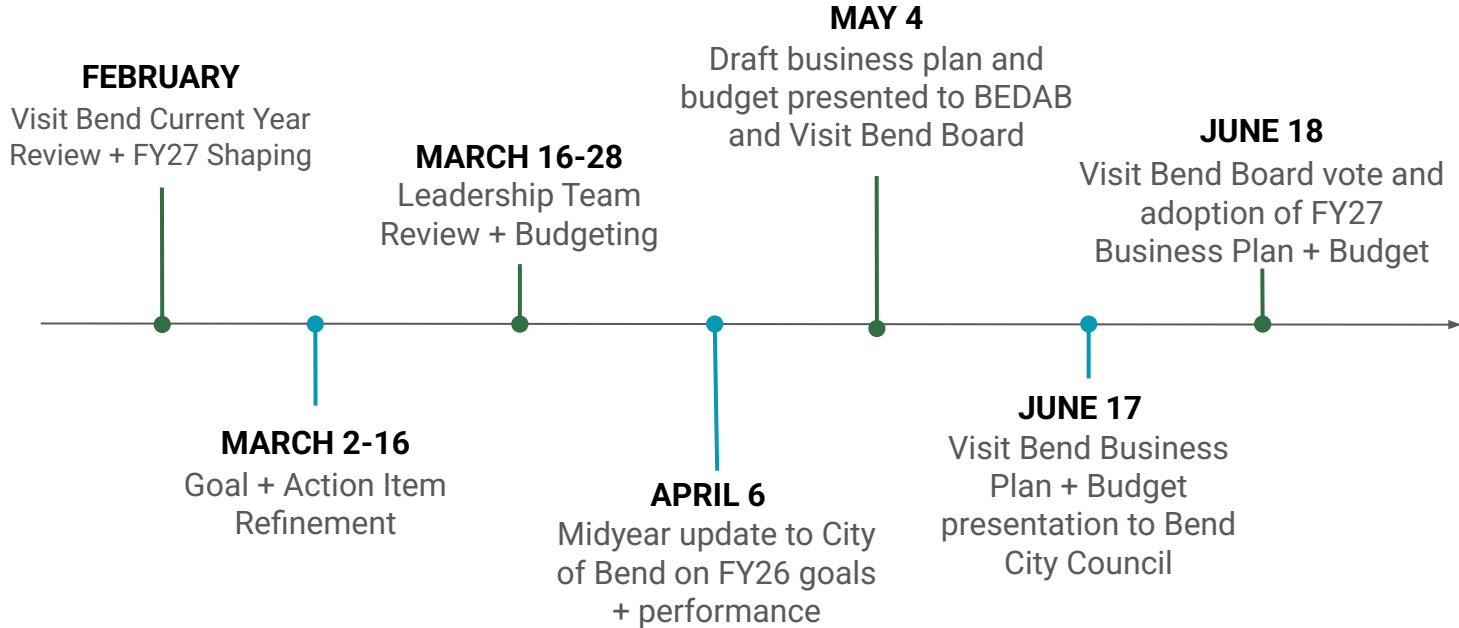
Recommended motion: I move to approve the addition of Tony, Jessica, and Laura to the Visit Bend Board of Directors to serve individual, three year terms in accordance with Visit Bend bylaws.

# FY27 BUDGETING + STRATEGIC PLANNING TIMELINE

JEFF KNAPP - VISIT BEND CEO

# VISIT BEND FY 27 PLANNING

[TIMELINE]



# BOARD COMMENT

BRANDON TYLER - VISIT BEND BOARD CHAIR

# PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES

# NEXT PUBLIC VISIT BEND BOARD MEETING:

MAY 19, 2026 | ELEMENT HOTEL

RSVP TO [DANIEL@VISITBEND.COM](mailto:DANIEL@VISITBEND.COM)



**THANK YOU**