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City of Yachats Receives LOC's Excellence Award

PENDLETON, Ore. – During the second day of the 2026 Local Government Spring Conference, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) presented its 2026 Award for Excellence to the city of Yachats for the Yachats Collaboration Model. The award, which recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services, was presented to co-recipients, with the cities of Pendleton and Medford also winning.

About the Yachats Collaboration Model

With structured management principles, Yachats has shown how a small city can execute multi-million-dollar improvements through innovative service delivery. The key to their success is the "local multiplier effect," which allowed the city to convert every \$1.00 of local tax money into \$3.00 of community value through aggressive grant-seeking and private philanthropy. A shining example is the \$1.5 million Yachats Public Library, built by leveraging city funds with urban renewal agency support, private bequests, and foundation grants. The city's new approach has also helped secure ownership of the Estuary Walkway, and through partnerships with local Tribes, transformed the Little Log Church & Museum into a center for cultural truth. Through modern, progressive governance, Yachats is proving that a city of 1,000 residents can preserve its past while building a sustainable, high-quality future.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon's incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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