

ALONZO

TASK FORCE

TUCKER

2021 SURVEY RESULTS

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SURVEY PURPOSE

ALONZO TUCKER

Alonzo Tucker is one of more than 300 African American documented victims of racial terror lynching in non-Southern states, the only African American thus far documented to have been lynched in Oregon.

On September 18, 1902, Alonzo Tucker was hanged from a beam on the South Marshfield bridge by a mob of armed, white coal miners in Coos Bay (then called Marshfield), Oregon. Despite the fact that newspapers reported that “not a masked man was in the [mob] and everything was done in broad daylight,” no one was held accountable for Mr. Tucker’s lynching.

FACING
DIFFICULT
TRUTH
TOGETHER

OREGON REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

PURPOSE

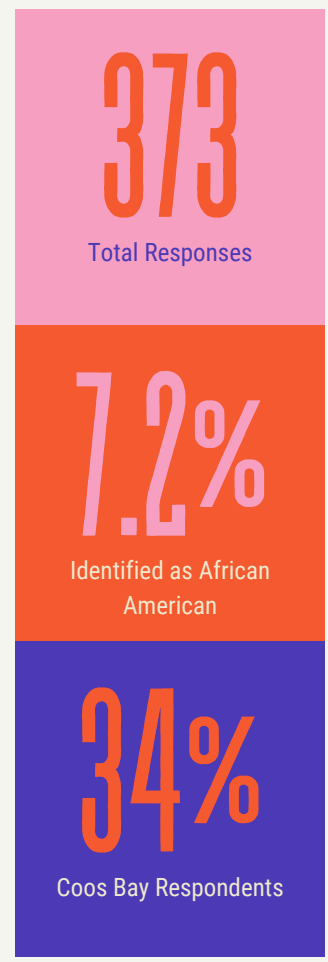
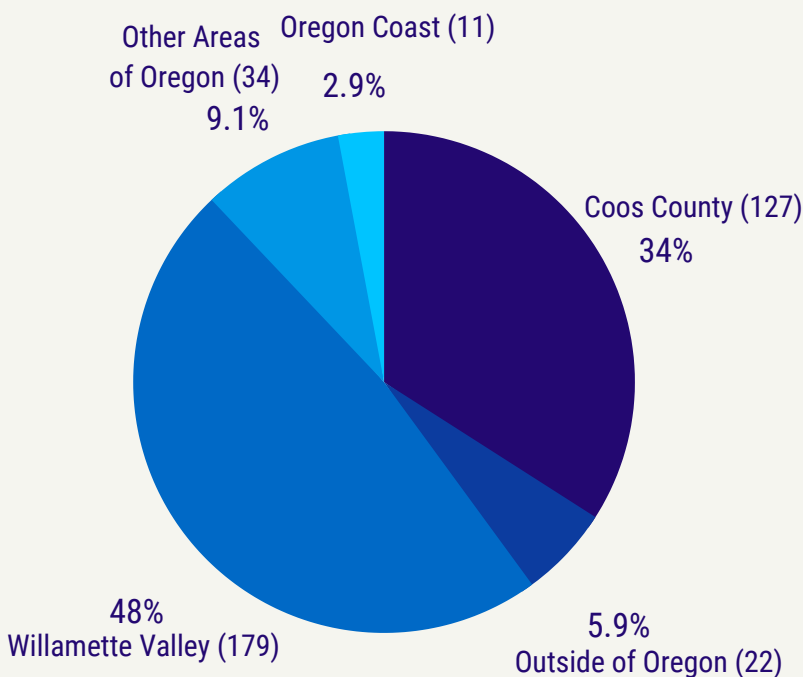
Our collective memory and our collective consciousness hold power. What we choose to remember as well as how we choose to remember history is a reflection of the soul of our society. Bryan Stevenson, the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, says that “truth and reconciliation are sequential.” In order to get to reconciliation, we must first engage in the requisite truth telling.

We have chosen to embark on this campaign of truth and reconciliation by placing a physical memorial to the history of lynching and to Oregon’s only recorded African American victim of lynching, Alonzo Tucker. Through placing this physical memorial, we are permanently installing this history into our collective knowledge and setting the course for our relationship with history in a way that compels us to learn from that history.

The City of Coos Bay, the Coos History Museum, the Oregon Remembrance Project, the Alonzo Tucker Project, and a constituency of Coos County community members have convened a task force to determine which form an Alonzo Tucker memorial should take. The determined course of action is to continue Coos Bay’s partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative from Montgomery, AL.

The survey was distributed by task force members and strongly suggested that all survey respondents read the 'Alonzo Tucker Newsletter' so that they were aware of the story and meaning behind the work.

WHO RESPONDED?



This truth-telling and collective memory extends outside of Coos Bay so our partners shared the survey with statewide (and outside of Oregon!) audiences. The task force was pleased to receive 373 total responses. The pie chart above shows where the respondents were from.

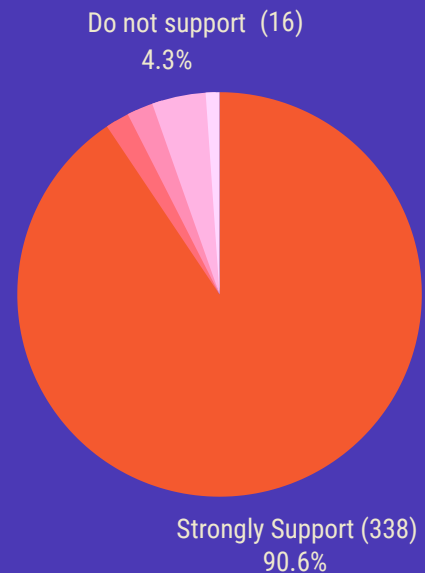
The Alonzo Tucker Task Force is committed to ensuring the voices of African Americans are included in this process and decision. There was a question in the survey that asked "Do you identify as African American?" 7.2% of respondents selected 'yes'.

EXPRESSED SUPPORT

The survey results demonstrated that the majority of survey respondents support a memorial in honor of Alonzo Tucker.

The Alonzo Tucker Task Force has recommended that the Coos History Museum incorporate a memorial of the Alonzo Tucker lynching on their grounds in Coos Bay that would include a nationally recognized marker sponsored by the [Equal Justice Initiative](#). What is your opinion of this decision?

- 90.6% Strongly Support (338)
- 1.9% Somewhat Support (7)
- 2.1% Support with Reservations (8)
- 4.3% Do Not Support (16)
- 1.1% Other



ADDITIONAL NOTES:

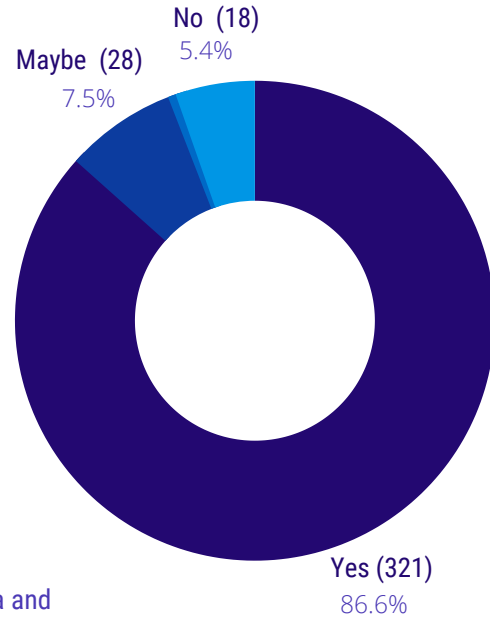
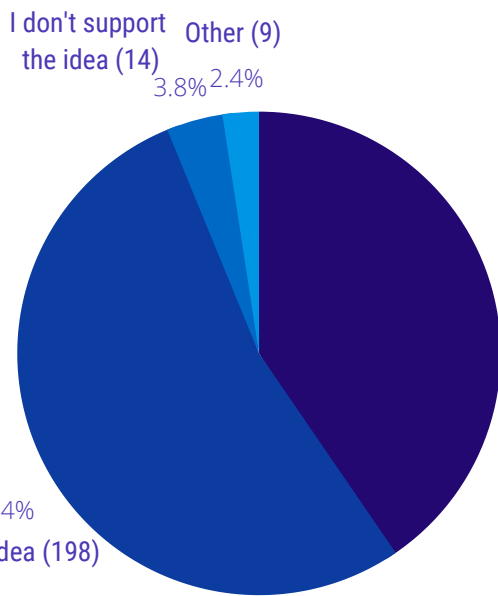
One of the comments elaborated on why they oppose this: "I strongly oppose this. I can't handle seeing my people as victims of cruelty anymore; I don't watch slave films or civil-rights movies, either for the same reason. I appreciate the intentions of the task force--and Alonzo's suffering, but I don't see the value of memorializing yet another act of depravity. How many paintings of the passion of the Christ do you need? Is Dallas in 1963 a good conversation topic with Jackie Kennedy? NO! I'm out. I'd be happy to see a memorial of black achievement, or inclusion (a community welcoming black people) instead."

Several comments mentioned a concern about the protection of the memorial from vandalism and the need to have preventative measures so it won't be disrespected.

FUTURE PARTICIPATION

The survey also aimed to learn if people would be willing to travel to see the memorial, the potential for a Southwestern Oregon Community College scholarship and what other types of memorials people would be interested in seeing.

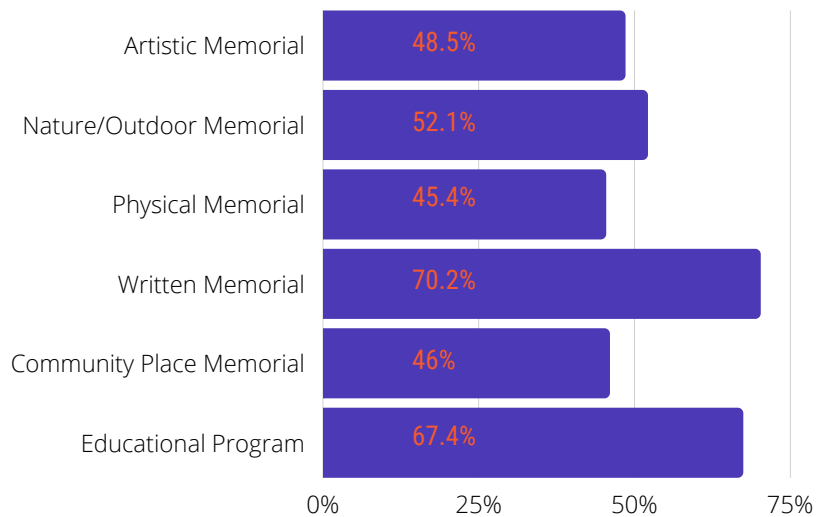
If a nationally-recognized marker sponsored by the Equal Justice Initiative were established on the grounds of the Coos History Museum in Coos Bay, would you plan a visit to observe it?



I support the idea and would contribute funds to establish it (150)
40.4%

The Alonzo Tucker Task Force is considering establishing a scholarship through the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation in memory of Alonzo Tucker. Criteria for the award and the amount of the scholarship have yet to be determined. We are gauging interests for this idea.

What, if any, additional type(s) of memorial(s) would you be interested in seeing as it relates to Alonzo Tucker? *This question is aimed at gauging interest and will NOT necessarily be included in the memorial that will be placed at the Coos History Museum.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Oregon Remembrance Project - <https://www.oregonremembrance.com/>

With the support of the Equal Justice Initiative, this project is dedicated to remembering the death of Alonzo Tucker, Oregon's only recorded African American victim of lynching. This website hopes to be a starting place for educating and inspiring future dialogue about race, racism, and white supremacy in our community. We hope to find reconciliation and communal healing through a sober reflection on history

Oregon Black Pioneers - <https://oregonblackpioneers.org/>

We research, recognize, and commemorate the culture and heritage of African Americans in Oregon. Oregon Black Pioneers is Oregon's only historical society dedicated to preserving and presenting the experiences of African Americans statewide. Since 1993, our organization has illuminated the seldom-told history of people of African descent in Oregon. We are inspired by the tenacity of Black Oregonians who have faced discrimination and hardship to make a life for themselves here over the past 400 years. We honor their sacrifices by remembering their stories and by sharing them to the public.

Coos History Museum - <https://cooshistory.org/>

The Coos History Museum creates a better understanding of life in Coos County and Oregon's South Coast, past and present, and our place in that life. We do this by collecting and preserving stories, artifacts, photographs, and documents, and by helping create opportunities for people to interpret them in meaningful thought-provoking, and engaging ways.

City of Coos Bay - <http://coosbay.org/>

Historically known as Marshfield, Coos Bay celebrates a history in shipbuilding and lumber products while serving as the regional hub for Oregon's south coast. Coos Bay proudly stands today as the largest city on the Oregon coast, with a population of 16,615, and is the medical, education, retail, and professional center for the south coast region.



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