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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Historic Haas Mural in SW Portland to Undergo Restoration Following Critical Building Repairs

**Portland, OR – January 22, 2016** – The well-known mural of historic Oregon scenes that graces the Sovereign Hotel building located on the corner of SW Madison & Broadway in downtown Portland will be temporarily impacted by the renovation of the building, which began this week. Renovations are being led by Emerick Architects and R&H Construction and subcontractor D&R Masonry.

The Sovereign Hotel building was sold in 2014 by the Oregon Historical Society to 1922 Sovereign LLC, but the Society retained ownership of the mural. The sale agreement anticipated that the repairs that needed to be made to the building would impact the mural, and required that the mural be preserved and that OHS and the 1922 Sovereign LLC would share the cost of the preservation.

“The mural has been a fixture on the Portland Park Blocks for nearly a century and is a true Portland icon,” said OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk. “Our visitors frequently comment on their love of the mural, and we are excited to work with 1922 Sovereign LLC to ensure that it will be restored to its full glory.”

“We are thrilled to work so closely with the Oregon Historical Society and an incredibly experienced and talented team in preserving this landmark,” said Gary Maffei of 1922 Sovereign LLC.

1922 Sovereign LLC, in partnership with the Oregon Historical Society and Jessica Engeman, Historic Preservation Specialist from Venerable Group, Inc., has selected Dan Cohen to handle the mural restoration, which is slated to begin this May. Cohen is a classically trained painter, sculptor, and muralist, who currently lives and works in the

Pacific Northwest, Los Angeles, and New York City. Notable local projects include the Oaks Bottom Wildlife mural at Portland Oaks Bottom Refuge, one of the largest fine-art murals in the nation. His work is known across the country, and he has already had conversations with the original muralist, Richard Haas, about this project.

The 14,000 square foot mural is made of Keim silicate paint and was originally commissioned by the Oregon Historical Society in 1989. According to Richard Haas' website, "the west face of this multi-part mural, painted on four sides of a six-sided building depicts four, thirty-feet-high participants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-05. The south face bears a trompe l'oil freize of the Oregon Trail and the John Jacob Astor fur trade."

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### **About the Oregon Historical Society**

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state's collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website ([www.ohs.org](http://www.ohs.org)), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon's history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon's cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.