



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Oregon Arts Commission Announces *Arts Build Communities* Grant Awards

The Oregon Arts Commission announces \$110,000 in grants in its *Arts Build Communities* (ABC) program. Now in its thirteenth year, the program fosters community arts partnerships that broaden the impact of the arts in a community.

"This year's strongest *Arts Build Communities* applicants are exemplified by creative partnerships that use the arts to address specific community issues," said Arts Commissioner Bart Eberwein, chair of the ABC grant panel. "The successful grant recipients will help Oregonians address a broad spectrum of needs, including audience development in under-served communities, literacy, at-risk youth, economic and downtown revitalization."

"These projects speak to the vitality of the arts in community life," said Christine D'Arcy, director of the Oregon Arts Commission. "We're able to support strong community arts development projects in Oregon through our funding partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts."

Thirty-five community and arts groups submitted requests totaling nearly \$210,000 to the Commission. The twenty-one *Arts Build Communities* final grant recommendations reflect the program's priorities to fund project excellence, strong community projects and work in under-served areas.

The Oregon Arts Commission established the *Arts Build Communities* program in 1996, and it has since become nationally recognized for its power to create meaningful, collaborative projects of significant benefit to communities.

The list of grant recipients and a summary of the funded projects follow.

Ashland***Oregon Shakespeare Festival Assoc., \$7,000***

To deepen the Festival's connections with southern Oregon's growing Latino audience by adding Spanish-captioned performances, bilingual services and focus groups, community events, and an Hispanic play to the 2009 season. Partners include La Clinica del Valle, Rogue Community College Latino Programs, Oregon Child Development Coalition/Migrant Head Start, and Chamber Latino Network. Contact: Deborah Small, 541-482-2111, deborahs@osfashland.org

Bend***High Desert Museum, \$7,000***

For "Art Through Ancestry," a program to increase the understanding of contemporary Native American art and artists. Through artist in residence workshops, k-12 outreach and exhibitions, four renowned artists will demonstrate their processes and create new work to be exhibited for this project and later incorporated into the museum's permanent exhibit, "By Hand Through Memory."

Contact: Janeanne A. Upp, 541-382-4754, jupp@highdesertmuseum.org

Enterprise***Fishtrap, Inc., \$7,000***

To support "The Big Read" of Jack London's *Call of the Wild* in Wallowa County. In partnership with Oregon Fish and Wildlife, Search and Rescue, the Humane Society, regional newspapers, radio stations, school districts and the Wallowa County Library, Fishtrap will distribute hundreds of books to schools and libraries and involve readers at all levels. Associated programming will include multiple lectures, school visits and movie screenings, and dog sledding-related activities.

Contact: Kathy Sewell, 541-426-3623, kathy@fishtrap.org

Wallowa Valley Music Alliance, \$5,100

To defray the promotion, artist fees and travel costs of multiple community concerts, including the "Courthouse Concert Series," 12 weekly performances from June – August 2009 at the courthouse gazebo; "Tunesmith Night," a monthly songwriter showcase; and "Occasional Concerts" throughout the year.

Contact: Janis Carper, 541-426-3390, info@wvmusicalliance.org

Estacada***Estacada Area Arts Commission, \$3,600***

For the Estacada Summer Celebration, a free outdoor music and arts festival in downtown Estacada, July 23-26, 2009, a partnership of the Estacada Arts Commission, Estacada Together and Artback. In addition to performances, the festival includes hands-on art activities for children, a music crawl, an original puppet show and an art fair. It also celebrates the annual painting of an outdoor mural by Artback Artists Cooperative.

Contact: Jami Berry, 503-630-4013, jamiberry@yahoo.com

Hood River***Columbia Art Gallery, \$5,950***

To support "CCA Presents," a program that to bring performing arts groups from outside the Gorge to provide school outreach performances, community workshops and public concerts.

Contact: Joanie Thomson, 541-490-2340, info@columbiaarts.org

Columbia Gorge Arts in Education, \$3,500

To support a public art project celebrating cultural heritage in Wasco County with the creation and permanent installation of a 100-glass-panel "Quilt." The project brings together Columbia Gorge Arts in Education, two Dalles Wahtonka High School art teachers, a professional glass artist and 125 local high school students to research and create the panels.

Contact: Leith Gaines, 541-387-5031, lgaines@hoodriver.k12.or.us

Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Foundation, \$6,300

To fund the "Youthful Art of Healing" at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, a project in partnership with Columbia Gorge Arts in Education, Columbia Center for the Arts and local schools. It will engage 340 elementary and high school students, citizens and local artists in sixteen art projects to enhance the healing environment of the hospital.

Contact: Rene Whittaker, 541-387-6474, katherine.whittaker@providence.org

Grants Pass

Rogue Community College ArtWorks, \$3,600

For "Perceptions of the Past," an art exhibit celebrating Oregon's 2009 Sesquicentennial. The project invites Oregon writers and artists to re-interpret historic photographs from the collection of the Josephine County Historical Society. Its intent is to reinvigorate Oregon's early history and reconnect today's citizens with those who settled and developed the state.

Contact: Tommi Drake, 541-956-7240, tdrake@roguecc.edu

Lincoln City

Cascade Head Music Festival, \$3,825

To support a performance and weekend workshop by the jazz ensemble Oregon at the Lincoln City Cultural Center and the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, respectively. Grant support will underwrite expenses for these presentations, which represent an expansion of Cascade Head Music Festival's 22 years of classical chamber music.

Contact: Peggy Hawker, 541-994-5333, dahawker@earthlink.net

Medford

Jefferson Nature Center, \$4,600

To support "Preparing for Unsettled Days," a series of literary readings and art exhibitions interpreting regional climate change predictions. Climate change researchers will work with local writers and artists to create the new work.

Contact: Susan Cross, 541-282-8577, scross@mind.net

Milwaukie

Northwest Housing Alternatives, Inc, \$5,100

To add artwork in a 90-unit apartment building being rehabilitated for seniors and people with special needs in Portland. The artwork will be co-created by public artist Horatio Law and residents of the building. Law will draw ideas, feelings and hopes from the residents to co-create a piece that engenders a sense of community and increases a feeling of home.

Contact: Kate Kealy, 503-654-1007, kealy@nwhousing.org

Newport

Newport Symphony Orchestra, \$3,000

To support the “Symphony for Seniors” project providing free and subsidized tickets for three concerts to low-income and disabled seniors. The project includes transportation to and from concerts, pre-concert lectures and access to special collections at the Newport Public Library.

Contact: Michael Dalton, 541-574-0614, info@newportsymphony.org

Portland

Art on Alberta, \$6,300

To support the 10th Annual “Art Hop” community arts festival. The 2009 event will honor Thelma Johnson Streat (1912-1959), an internationally acclaimed artist and dancer from Portland and the first African American woman to have work exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art. Streat is remembered for her innovative art pieces, dances and her deep commitment to intercultural understanding.

Contact: Hilary Pfeifer, 503-704-2476, president@artonalberta.org

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, \$3,125

To support a four-day multi-cultural dance festival with performers from twelve cultures, including West Africa, India, Turkey, Russia, Spain and China. The festival will focus on a cross-cultural exchange of ideas through public workshops and performances pairing dance traditions of similar and dissimilar cultures seeking common ground and learning from their differences.

Contact: Kimberly Howard, 503-823-4322, kimberly@ifccarts.org

Miracle Theatre Group, \$4,500

To expand “Art of Science,” Teatro Milagro’s bilingual residency program with an environmental focus, to southern and central Oregon. A new partnership with Crook County Schools will provide a strong community collaborative base, reaching 4500 participants overall. By working with community leaders and educators to share diversity through the arts, Milagro acts as a catalyst to raise awareness about Latino culture in participating neighborhoods.

Contact: Dañel Malán, 503-236-7253, danel@milagro.org

Neighborhood Pride Team dba Trillium Artisans, \$4,250

To support Trillium Artisans’ artisan product review monthly meetings, workshops and classes, and to market new artisans on the website. The program directly benefits 38 low-income craftspeople by strengthening their businesses. The project partnership includes financial support from the Economic Opportunity Initiative of Portland’s Bureau of Housing and Community Development.

Contact: Amanda McCloskey, 503-775-7993, amanda@trilliumartisans.org

Oregon Children’s Theatre, \$7,000

To expand DEEP (Discover-Engage-Explore-Perform) Theatre, a year-round program for children not otherwise able to participate in live theater activities. Oregon Children’s Theatre will add partnerships with St. Mary’s Home for Boys and New Avenues for Youth to its existing alliances with Friends of the Children, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Contact: Jeff Pazdalski, 503-228-9571, jeff@octc.org

Well Arts Institute, \$5,950

To support 8-12 weeks of writing workshops for elderly residents in full-care, assisted living and memory care facilities in Portland. The workshops will include weekly writing sessions; one-on-one interaction between elders and artists; bound manuscripts of participants' writing for each individual and facility; performances by professional actors of participants' dramatic work; and professional productions featuring elders' writing.

Contact: Lorraine Bahr, 503-459-4500, val@wellarts.org

Write Around Portland, \$7,000

To support 53 workshops in the coming year for people affected with HIV/AIDS, veterans with PTSD, prisoners, survivors of domestic violence, homeless youth, individuals recovering from addictions, people with disabilities, and others who might otherwise be unable to participate in writing workshops because of low income, isolation or other barriers.

Contact: Robyn Steely, 503-796-9224, rsteely@writearound.org

Salem

Salem Art Association, \$6,300

To develop "Project Space II," a contemporary art space in downtown Salem that will be open in summer 2009. A nonprofit venue for juried, rotating exhibitions by regional artists, Project Space II will provide public access to contemporary art in downtown Salem. The project is a partnership between Salem Art Association, six local artists, a secondary community of participating studio artists, and interns from university art programs.

Contact: Kathleen Dinges, 503-581-2228, kathleen@salemart.org

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Economic Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at:

www.oregonartscommission.org