



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Oregon Arts Commission Awards \$307,600 in Arts Stimulus Grants to 16 Arts Organizations

Federal Recovery Funds Preserve Jobs in the Arts

The Oregon Arts Commission has awarded arts stimulus grants totaling \$307,600 to 16 Oregon arts organizations. The stimulus grants were funded in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and provided to the Arts Commission by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Oregon's arts stimulus grants were restricted to nonprofit arts organizations and were awarded exclusively to save salaried positions with these organizations.

"The inclusion of the arts in the national economic stimulus plan acknowledges the role that the arts play in state and national recovery," said Christine D'Arcy, executive director of the Arts Commission. "Jobs in the arts for artists, directors, managers, technicians, designers and workers in a variety of trades are a vital part of Oregon's increasingly important creative economy. These one-time grants will retain up to 19 jobs, providing critical aid not only to arts organizations but strengthening the Oregon economy as a whole."

The Oregon Arts Commission received 68 arts stimulus grant applications requesting over \$1.6 million. In a highly competitive process, the following 16 organizations were awarded one-time, nonrenewable grants. All applications were reviewed by a panel of volunteers selected for their expertise and impartiality.

The Arts Center, Corvallis, \$26,000

Position preserved: Executive Director of the Arts Center, which provides visual arts exhibitions, artist workshops and other programs benefiting Linn and Benton counties.

Arts Central, Bend, \$20,700

Position preserved: The Executive Director and the Education Director at Arts Central, the regional arts council serving Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties.

Cappella Romana Vocal Ensemble, Portland, \$10,000

Position preserved: Executive Director, the only paid staff member of Cappella Romana, an internationally recognized vocal chamber ensemble dedicated to the early and contemporary musical traditions of the Christian East and West.

Friends of Chamber Music, Portland, \$20,600

Position preserved: Executive Director of the oldest chamber music series in Oregon and one of the longest running in the country. In addition to presenting high caliber programming, FOCM provides educational outreach to further chamber music in the community.

Columbia Center for the Arts, Hood River, \$18,000

Position preserved: Executive Director at this multi-purpose arts organization in the Gorge dedicated to bringing the visual, performing, and literary arts to the Hood River community.

Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council, La Grande, \$10,000

Position preserved: Executive Director of Arts East, the regional arts council promoting the arts, arts education and artists to residents and visitors in Oregon's 10 easternmost counties.

Ethos Music Center, Portland, \$20,000

Position preserved: Director of Programs at this nonprofit dedicated to promoting music and music-based education for youth in underserved communities.

Independent Publishing Resource Center, Portland, \$10,000

Position preserved: Executive Director at one of the only nonprofit self-publishing centers in the world. IPRC offers workspace and tools to aid in the production and distribution of zines, comics, hand-bound books and artwork as well as operating one of the nation's largest circulating zine libraries.

Lord Leebrick Theatre Company, Eugene, \$22,500

Position preserved: Artistic Director of the company, which produces five plays each year in downtown Eugene.

Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, \$30,000

Position preserved: Exhibition Coordinator at one of the few museums in the region dedicated to the investigation and exploration of craft.

Oregon East Symphony, Pendleton, \$8,800

Position preserved: Executive Director of the only orchestra in Eastern Oregon, which offers live performances and extensive youth programming.

Sitka Center for Art & Ecology, Otis, \$30,000

Position preserved: Program Manager who oversees a multi-discipline workshop curriculum with over 80 offerings, bringing hundreds of participants to the Oregon Coast.

Southern Oregon Film Society, Ashland, \$29,000

Position preserved: Director of Programming for this nationally recognized independent film festival that attracts an audience of over 6,000 to view over 80 films in five days.

Tears of Joy Theatre, Portland, \$12,000

Position preserved: Technical Director of this internationally recognized puppet theater company, which performs in theaters, community centers, festivals and schools throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Umpqua Valley Arts Association, Roseburg, \$20,000

Position preserved: Executive Director of the regional arts council serving Douglas County which also operates a facility with galleries, studio space and classrooms for workshops and a variety of art programs.

Write Around Portland, Portland, \$20,000

Position preserved: Two program Coordinators who collaborate with more than 140 social service agencies and community organizations to offer creative writing workshops for underserved participants.

D'Arcy added her congratulations to the nine other Oregon arts organizations that received direct competitive grants totaling \$350,000 to preserve jobs from the National Endowment for the Arts:

CALYX, Inc., Corvallis	\$25,000
Eugene Symphony Association, Inc.	\$50,000
Fishtrap, Inc., Enterprise	\$25,000
Literary Arts, Inc., Portland	\$50,000
Miracle Theatre Company, Portland	\$25,000
Oregon Symphony Association, Portland	\$50,000
Portland Center Stage	\$50,000
Portland Youth Philharmonic Association	\$25,000
White Bird, Portland	\$50,000

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts -- both new and established -- bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest annual national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, please visit www.arts.gov. Since the NEA was established, it has worked in partnership with the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and six multi-state regional arts organizations to meet the Arts Endowment's goal of bringing the arts to all Americans. This dynamic relationship has resulted in an exemplary record of growth for the arts, stimulating an extraordinary economic impact in communities throughout the country. As required by the NEA's legislation, forty percent of all grantmaking funds are designated for these partner agencies.

About the Oregon Arts Commission

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.

Related links

- National Endowment for the Arts, www.arts.gov
- Oregon Arts Commission, www.oregonartscommission.org
- "The Oregon Way" <http://recovery.oregon.gov>

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