



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Oregon Arts Commission Announces *28 Arts Build Communities Grants*

The Oregon Arts Commission announces 28 awards totaling \$110,000 in the 14th year of its *Arts Build Communities* (ABC) grant program. The program supports projects that broaden the impact of the arts in communities and foster community arts partnerships across the state.

“The strongest *Arts Build Communities* projects reflect creative partnerships that use the arts to address important community challenges,” said Arts Commissioner Bart Eberwein of Portland who chaired the review of ABC grant applications. “These grantees will help Oregon communities address a broad spectrum of needs by linking the arts with audience development in underserved communities, literacy, at-risk youth, economic and downtown revitalization, as well as community development. We’re able to support these community arts development projects in Oregon through our funding partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.”

Forty-eight (48) community and arts groups submitted requests totaling over \$260,000 to the Arts Commission. The twenty-eight (28) *Arts Build Communities* awards reflect the Commission’s priorities for funding: project excellence, support for work in underserved areas, and the depth and breadth of the proposed activities.

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. ABC grants also serve as catalysts for other grant money to advance economic and community development through artistic projects.

The following projects were selected for funding in 2010:

Ashland

Dancing People Company, \$3,200

To support the production of "Call Back the Sun," an annual celebration of Dancing People Company. The project brings together musicians, movers and audiences in the Rogue Valley in a performance celebrating the Winter Solstice. Dancing People's professional artists perform and mentor community members as they create and execute the performance. Grant funds will support the involvement of youth at risk in the production and a matinee performance targeted toward elders and families.

Contact: Robin Stiehm, 541-941-6282, robin@dancingpeople.com

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, \$5,250

To support "Culture Fest," a new effort to solidify partnerships with diverse communities through employment recruitment, education programs and audience development activities including translated performances, bilingual services, public event and Green Show performances. The program's goals are to support underserved populations, build awareness among new and infrequent playgoers, raise consciousness within the OSF company, diversify OSF's prospective employee pool and create dialogue and partnership-building opportunities with multilingual, multicultural, multigenerational communities.

Contact: Deborah Small, 541-482-2111 x 249, deborahs@osfashland.org

Astoria

Liberty Restoration Inc., \$3,600

To support the development of a five-year strategic plan for the Liberty Theater. The planning process will create a sustainable plan that addresses the economic, ecological, and social factors which impact the operation of the theater and result in a more effective annual strategic operation. This project may serve as a model for other performing arts venues in Oregon.

Contact: Kathleen Paino, 503-325-0342, paino2060@charter.net

Beaverton

Beaverton Arts Commission, \$5,250

To support performances of Ten Tiny Dances in a variety of outdoor public spaces in Beaverton. The free performances of contemporary and traditional dance will connect an artistic voice to Beaverton's ethnic groups; deepen the connections between the Beaverton Arts Commission and local ethnic populations while increasing visibility of Beaverton's public art program. Grant funds will support an event manager, stage managers and marketing.

Contact: Jayne Scott, 503-526-2288, jscott@ci.beaverton.or.us

Bend

Heritage Theatre Company, \$2,625

To support the 15 week Neighborhood Arts & Meals, a partnership with Bend Community Center to offer visual and performing arts education and arts marketing programs in conjunction with the community meals offered to adults, youth and children experiencing homelessness and poverty. A culminating art event will draw attention to issues of homelessness and generate income for students and the program.

Contact: Janet Kingsley, 541-788-1220, htc@bendbroadband.com

High Desert Museum, \$5,000

To support the design and development of an arts learning class associated with the Art Through Ancestry exhibition. In partnership with the Museum at Warm Springs and Arts Central, the program will allow students to experience, and be inspired by, contemporary Native American art and traditional artifacts from the Museum's collection, and to use a wide range of media to create their own art. The project seeks to connect the artistic process with themes of tradition, ancestry and art.

Contact: Janeanne A. Upp, 541-382-4754 x326, jupp@highdesertmuseum.org

Corvallis

The Arts Center, \$4,500

To support a month-long Celebration of Youth Arts at the Arts Center. The celebration will include three juried exhibits, six student readings, concerts and theater performances. The project will identify a cadre of arts supporters in Corvallis schools and community groups to begin development of a district-wide arts advocacy network. Funding will support artist stipends for mentors for K-12 participants, the purchase of supplies and support accessibility costs.

Contact: Sara Swanberg, 541-754-1551, sara@theartscenter.net

Enterprise

Fishtrap, Inc., \$7,000

To support the 2010 Big Read project, "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, in Wallowa County. The book will be distributed to adults and students in four towns, six libraries, and to multiple reading groups and schools within the county. Fishtrap will partner with Wallowa County Music Alliance; Mid-Valley Theater; Wallowa County Peace and Justice Network; Joseph, Wallowa, and Enterprise City Libraries; Wallowa County Library; and the Wallowa County schools to increase participation.

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

Eugene

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon, \$5,250

To support the museum's efforts to strengthen relationships with Lane County's growing Latin American, Asian, and Asian-American communities. Grant funds will support the translation of the museum's marketing and educational material and portions of its website into Spanish, Japanese, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese to create better awareness of and use of its collections and to offer programs to these underserved communities.

Contact: Jason Wagoner, 541-346-0832, jwagoner@uoregon.edu

Oregon Mozart Players, \$3,000

To support "South of the Border," a series of concerts and receptions in collaboration with Centro Latino Americano. Through the work, the two organizations will engage the growing Latino community and showcase the musical excellence of the Oregon Mozart Players to new and current audiences. Grant funds will support artistic fees.

Contact: Larry Wayte, 541-345-6648, omp@oregonmozartplayers.org

Community Center for Performing Arts/WOW Hall , \$3,000

To support the involvement of at-risk youth in a community volunteering program at WOW Hall in Eugene. Working in partnership with community agencies to identify participants, the project will develop leadership and life skills through WOW Hall's supportive environment.

Contact: Liora Sponko, 541-687-2746, liorasponko@gmail.com

Falls City

Falls City Arts Council, \$2,600

To support the Friday Night Art Group's efforts to increase community access to art programs. To reach more people who lack the financial resources to access the arts, grant funds will support the outfitting of a van to serve as a mobile art vehicle and as a portable storage facility for the group's art making materials.

Contact: Jackey Raye Jones, 503-559-6291, fallscityarts@hotmail.com

Halfway

Cornucopia Arts Council, \$1,500

To support the annual Art Camp offering classes in a variety of artistic disciplines for children and adults. The camp exposes students to different forms of artistic expression and also provides teaching employment for local artists. The camp includes an end-of-summer public display at the Baker County Fair. Grant funds will support instructor fees, supplies, facility rental and scholarships for low-income students.

Contact: Cindy Thayer, 541-742-7280, outback56@pinetel.com

Hood River

Columbia Gorge Arts in Education, \$5,250

To support the "Gorgeous Sounds" project of in-school music instruction, music teacher workshops, and a series of chamber music concerts in partnership with Eclipse School of Music, NYC-based Vinca Quartet and schools in Hood River and Wasco counties. Grant funds will support in-school residencies, mini-conferences for music teachers, and free community concerts.

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

Medford

Rogue Valley Chorale, \$2,000

To support a "Spring Sing," two concerts for Medford School District elementary students by the Rogue Valley Youth Chorus. The program will address reductions in Southern Oregon school music programs by sharing the joy of singing, presenting choral programs by student peers, and increasing the awareness of arts involvement opportunities available to children. Grant funds will be used to pay transportation (buses), marketing, choral music, administrative and artistic fees.

Contact: Laura Rich, 541-772-2163, lauraworldmusicproductions@msn.com

Pendleton

Crow's Shadow Institute, \$1,950

To support a series of programs focused on traditional horse regalia in partnership with the Fort Walla Walla Museum. Up to 40 people will participate in a series of workshops taught by highly experienced instructors, with finished works to be exhibited and used in a major ceremonial horse parade. Grant funds will support instructor fees and supplies.

Contact: Flynn Espe, 541-276-3954, fespe@crowshadow.org

Portland

Oregon Cultural Access, \$4,250

To support the 2010 Disability Pride Art and Culture Festival in Portland, which will celebrate arts that value normal human variation, foster the artistic and cultural development of the disability community, educate people about disability art, and strengthen connections among the regions' arts, allies and activists.

Contact: Kathy Coleman, 503-238-0723, kafia2008@yahoo.com

Elders in Action, \$5,200

To support the "Grand Works Northwest Arts Festival," a collaboration between Elders in Action and the Geezer Gallery. The festival seeks to dispel negative myths about growing older in our culture and to demonstrate the positive impact of remaining creative as one ages. Through showing the works of elder artists, workshops and interactive discussion groups, the project promotes the concept that inspiration, creativity and resilience promote healthy aging. Grant funds will support honoraria for artists and faculty, advertising and facility rental.

Contact: Brenda Morgan, 503-235-5474, brenda@eldersinaction.org

Mittleman Jewish Community Center, \$4,200

To support production of a Jewish Arts Month to provide greater public access to contemporary Jewish cultural arts – music, writing, literature, film, visual arts and storytelling – presented in exhibits, workshops and other activities in community-friendly venues. The project will provoke discourse, dialogue and better understanding of Jewish art in American culture. Grant funds will support rent, artist fees, honoraria and marketing.

Contact: Helen Gundlach, 503-535-3594, hgundlach@oregonjcc.org

Miracle Theatre Group (Teatro Milagro), \$3,000

To support “Journeys”, the theatre’s bilingual Puentes residency program residency in Redmond in partnership with Obsidian Middle School and area social service agencies. The program will introduce an anti-bullying curriculum to schools and community groups. Teatro Milagro will also share curriculum through an educator in-service, a bilingual workbook for community leaders and educators, and classroom visits to the participating schools.

Contact: Danel Malan, 503-236-7253, malan@milagro.org

Portland Children's Museum, \$2,625

To support the Portland Children’s Museum’s Community Partners Program expansion of “Bread and Art,” a summer program which delivers arts workshops for children enrolled in the Summer Food Service Program. Grant funds will enable the Museum to add youth from two additional low-income housing projects in the summer of 2010.

Contact: Staci Martin, 503-471-9914, smartin@portlandcm.org

Art on Alberta , \$3,750

To support the 11th Annual “Art Hop” community arts festival and engage the neighborhood and area arts community. The 2010 event will include the creation and installation of six new public murals in the Alberta Arts district. Art on Alberta will also produce a free map chronicling the artwork and history of the Alberta Street art district.

Contact: Hilary Pfeifer, 503-342-2928, president@artonalberta.org

Sojourn Theatre, \$5,250

To support “On the Table,” an original theatre/civic dialogue project exploring the urban/rural conversation in Oregon. The production begins simultaneously in Portland and Molalla; literally moves audiences (by charter bus) across urban/rural boundaries; and concludes with both groups united to share a meal and conversation. The arts-based project will help meet Molalla’s community development goals, as their newly formed Arts Commission seeks to engage residents and model the arts’ potential impact locally.

Contact: Alisha Tonsic, 971-544-0464, alisha.tonsic@sojourntheatre.org

Powers

Powers Action Team, \$5,250

To support “Art Along the River,” an arts education project. A partnership of the Powers Action Team, Powers School District and the Powers Ranger District developed plans for the series of nature-based art apprentice educational and marketing opportunities for local low- and middle-income youth.

Contact: Jean LeCuyer, 541-439-3183, jeandi@earthlink.net

Salem

Salem Art Association, \$3,500

To support the Building Opportunities for Artists program, including an artist convening, technical assistance and networking opportunities for individual artists in Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties. Contact: Kathleen Dinges, 503-581-2228 x 312, kathleen@salemart.org

The Dalles

Gorge Artists, Inc., \$3,600

To support the Gorge Artists' Open Studio Tour promoting the work of over 35 artists to more than 700 visitors during a weekend-long tour in the Columbia River Gorge. Associated workshops on arts business practices and volunteer activities will build community among artists. Grant funds will help hire a part-time coordinator to do marketing, promotions and volunteer coordination.

Contact: Pat Bozanich, 541-478-0171, bozanich@gorge.net

Tillamook

Friends of Latimer Quilt & Textile Center, \$4,200

To support the "Tillamook County Quilt Trail: Preserving and Promoting our Rural Heritage" project which places quilt images on the street (visible) side of unique farm structures. These buildings will be used as the "canvas" throughout the County as a means to promote the region's quilting and agrarian heritage

Contact: Suzanne Weber, 503-842-8622, suzannetom@emparqmail.com

Warm Springs

The Museum at Warm Springs, \$4,200

To support "Baskets Tell A Story," an exhibit of Native American basket weaving from the Columbia River Plateau and beyond with associated programs at the Museum at Warm Springs. The exhibit will encourage basket weavers to maintain their art and inspire young tribal members to learn basket weaving. Hands-on activities in the Basket Circle will help Museum visitors appreciate the history, traditions, skills and knowledge embodied in every Native American basket.

Contact: Carol Leone, 541-553-3331, carol@redmond-net.com

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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