

ARTS CENTER:
Looking for high economic impact

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and internationally recognized arts programs and have identified key indicators of success," said Kathy Deggendorfer, trustee of The Roundhouse Foundation. "The most successful, such as Penland School of Crafts near Asheville, North Carolina, and Anderson Ranch at Snowmass, Colorado, have a wonderful synergy between the program and community that results in a stronger economy. A 2000 study of Penland, for example, found that the school contributed between \$6 million and \$8 million to the local community and the annual contribution to the regional economy exceed \$40 million."

Earlier this year nearly 40 artists and community leaders met to hear about the latest research project, including reports from the first of several local artists who visited national programs. Participants identified program traits and characteristics they found most interesting and potentially a good fit for Sisters. These include a "campus-style" facility in a natural, inspiring setting close to town so that attendees can stay, eat, shop and use local services. They embraced the idea of building on Sisters' reputation as an arts destination, and of collaboration with other organizations in town and in the region.

A sub-group met a month later to further envision what a Sisters program might look like. They built on the themes of collaboration, including increased local cooperation and regional partnerships; and of Sisters as an arts destination. They imagined the kinds of Americana crafts that could be the focus of a program, from painting and

drawing, to ceramics, metals and woodworking.

Education is also a focus of the emerging vision and preliminary conversations about collaborative opportunities are being held with OSU Cascades Campus, University of Oregon School of Art and Architecture, and the Sisters School District.

Additional discussions are taking place with the Sisters Arts Association which represents the for-profit business sector in Sisters; the Chamber of Commerce; the City of Sisters; EDCO; and Regional Solutions, the Governor's community and economic development department.

With the input of these groups, artists and local leaders, The Roundhouse Foundation is considering the process that would lead to a new arts center. This includes identifying prospective sites and assessing building requirements. Research into the most successful national and international programs also continues.

"Frank and I love living in Sisters and we want to use the opportunity we have as trustees of The Roundhouse Foundation to do something that will have low environmental impact and high economic potential. Our daughter is also a trustee of the foundation and our grandchildren attend Sisters schools. We see cultural tourism as a way to build something that will benefit the entire community without spoiling what is so special about it."

Reports and information about the project can be found at www.roundhousefoundation.org. On the revolving photos at the top of the home page, click on "Find out about the Sisters Center for the Visual Arts Project." Questions or comments may be left on the site or directed to research project consultant, Jan McGowan at jan@janmcgowan.com.

CAMP: More children are able to attend Outdoor School

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Oregon State University Extension Service, along with a group of leaders from across the state known as the Friends of Outdoor School, are working to oversee this process.

"They have a director, and all the infrastructure is being put in place now," he says. "But at this time, there is not funding from the state identified — the hope is that it will

be there by year two."

The typical cost of the three-day Outdoor School is \$175 per student, which includes transportation. Statewide, a little less than half of 5th- and 6th-grade students are attending an Outdoor School program. The summer camps at Camp Tamarack help to ultimately put monies in place to help offer Outdoor School at a lower cost to schools so more can attend.

Tyler Anderson was a young man who discovered his passion on a trip to the outdoors while in school.

"He enjoyed the beauty, the

solitude — it was his calling," said Anderson. "He loved to travel, to make connections with people and share the beauty of those places through their culture."

The Tyler Anderson Youth Camp is still active — its original 15 students, now in high school, still participate and the number has grown to 35 participants. Through On Belay TY and Camp Tamarack, Tyler's passion lives on and will hopefully allow other kids the opportunity to find their place.

For more information visit www.CampTamarack.com.

Foundation grant aids Camp Tamarack

The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Board of Directors recently approved a \$15,000 grant for facility improvements to Camp Tamarack in Sisters. The improvements include enhancing ADA accessibility where outdoor experiences and education are offered for youth ages 8-12 from Jefferson and Deschutes counties.

"The OCF team has been impressed with Camp Tamarack's program to provide outdoor learning experiences to youth in Central Oregon. Enhancing ADA accessibility will further expand their reach and

provide opportunities for more children to experience our national forest," said Cheryl Puddy, associate program officer/regional coordinator for The Oregon Community Foundation in Central and Eastern Oregon.

The Camp Tamarack grant is among one of 22 awarded to Central Oregon nonprofit organizations that received a combined total of \$365,000 in grant awards. The grants target a wide range of causes in the communities of Bend, La Pine, Madras, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters, Sunriver and Warm Springs.

"Our nonprofit partners

are coming forward with truly innovative programs to address a variety of unmet needs in our Central Oregon communities. From health and homelessness to the arts and education, we have received many excellent grant requests," said Puddy. "These agencies are helping to close the opportunity gap and improve quality of life in our region."

For full lists of grants awarded around the state and more information about OCF initiatives visit www.oregoncf.org/grants-scholarships/grants/community-grants/recent-awards.

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