

"We've been riding the wave," said Dera Stewart, Josephy's development director.

The Pendleton Center for the Arts has seen changes too, such as smaller class sizes, but Director Roberta Lavadour said the pandemic has inspired some good things, such as the ability to deliver art supplies or arrange a pick-up spot at the curb.

"There's no reason we can't do that all the time," she said.

She does miss, however, the live music and family gatherings that occurred regularly before the pandemic.

"We can't wait to get back to those," she said.

The Pendleton art center has continued to exhibit and sell artwork. The sales gallery features more than 100 artists.

"That's been really positive," Lavadour said. "We had a stronger holiday show than we've ever had. People want a connection to their community."

THE PANDEMIC PIVOT

The word "pivot" is the word of the pandemic — each art center pivoted operations throughout the last two years to provide



Josephy Center/Contributed image
The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph continues to offer a variety of workshops and classes.

art opportunities no matter the situation.

At Josephy, exhibits opened online, and the weekly Brown Bag gatherings moved to a virtual platform.

"It opened up other areas of

opportunity to think strategically," Stewart said.

At ACE, a donation from John J. Howard & Associates purchased a 360-degree camera that allows viewers to virtually tour the art exhibits.



Josephy Center/Contributed image
An artist works on a project at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph.

That is continuing today, even though ACE is open to the public.

"We graduated to what we're still doing," said Nancy Knowles, ACE board president.

Although in-person art shows continued at Crossroads, the center began posting all featured artwork on the website as well so people could view it from home.

The pandemic, Savage said, accelerated this move for Crossroads.

"It was on our strategic plan to get art exhibits online," she said.

Crossroads does not, however, have the equipment to offer virtual classes.

"When we could get back to very small groups we did, for human contact," Savage said.

Both ACE and Josephy intro-

duced art kits for all ages that could be completed at home.

"Take and make kits will continue forever," Dolge said.

Those kits are available through the centers' websites: artcentereast.org and josephy.org.

In Pendleton, the center's monthly First Draft Writers' Series moved online and Lavadour said it has allowed people to participate from near and far — including past featured writers. "It allows us to reach more people," she said.

The challenge going forward is to decide which pandemic-induced changes to keep.

"How do we combine the best of what we've learned?" Lavadour said.

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