

STCCF, other local grantors help LCCC complete new sound system

Volunteers help design, install new system

LINCOLN CITY, Ore. — The Lincoln City Cultural Center has entered a new era of event production and quality with the recent installation of a complete auditorium sound system.

With its recessed speakers, amplifier, mixer, XLR cables and a variety of new microphones, both wireless and handheld, the center can offer touring performers, local musicians and audiences a whole new sound experience.

The system was designed by a volunteer, veteran theatre director and lighting designer John Kendall, and paid for by three grants from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, the Pacific Power Foundation and the City of Lincoln City. Most of the installation was completed in January by Static Factory, a small company in Portland, with help from Kendall.

"The acoustics in the auditorium are already wonderful, thanks to the renovations completed in 2009," said Niki Price, executive director of the LCCC. "But we were limited to acoustic performances for smaller crowds. And even with the best acoustics, it can be hard for the human voice to be heard over instruments and crowd noise. Some bands brought their own equipment, which means they cost more, with uneven results for the LCCC."

"The new sound system creates so many opportunities for our center. For concerts, we can mike the instruments, mix the sound throughout the show and provide pre-show and intermission music, creating a more complete entertainment experience for our patrons. This system creates rental opportunities, too, from conference groups and weddings to lectures and debates. Thanks to these grants, we can present more programs than ever before."

When designing the system, Kendall chose four-foot-high Electro Voice Eliminator speakers, which were recessed into the wood paneling on either side of the stage's proscenium arch. On stage right, the installation work revealed a maze of electrical conduit that had to be rerouted before the project could continue. The electrical work was completed by local contractor, The Light Works LLC.

Kendall built a rolling cart for the Allen and Heath ZED 24-channel mixer, Gemini 02G Professional Karaoke CD player and other equipment, and strung channel snake cords inside the walls and through the crawl space around the auditorium. Now, the sound can be controlled and mixed from several different locations in the room.

The new microphone array offers two Shure SM58s, four Hisonic Quad Cordless, two AudioTehnica Boundary Mikes and two Nady OHCM-200 overhead

types, plus all the boom stands and cords they require.

Kendall also has donated hundreds of hours to rehang and program the auditorium's theatrical lighting system, which has been in place since the 2009 renovation. Now, one technician can set up the light and sound board in just a few minutes, run both systems throughout the performance and easily put it all away. The space can continue to be flexible and ready for a variety of events, said Price.

"Thanks to the city, Pacific Power and the CTSI Charitable Fund, we have created a great system. We are now looking for volunteers to join our tech team, to get trained on this new system and help us produce events in the future," Price said. "It's a great way to learn about theatrical light and sound while helping our nonprofit bring quality acts to the central coast."

To learn more, call the center at 541-994-9994.



Photos by Diane Rodriguez

The Ocean Play Room has a coral reef with discovery boxes that allow children to connect the things in the box with the animals in the tank above. The room also includes a sand box, a touch pool with sharks and rays, and a cleaner shrimp exhibit.

STCCF helps fund aquarium exhibit

The Sea & Me features interactive fun for children, young at heart

By Diane Rodriguez

The Oregon Coast Aquarium opened its latest exhibit on Memorial Day weekend and children of all ages will enjoy its interactive activities as the aquarium celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The Sea & Me exhibit is designed to be fun and imaginative, based on a model used by children's museums, offering play experiences that are developmentally appropriate for children 4 to 10 years old, but kids of all ages will find interactive discoveries to enjoy.

Components of The Sea & Me include a Submarine Sea Lab, Fishing Gallery, play area called Create Your Own Ocean Experience, touch pool and marine displays. Most exhibits have things to push, flip, turn, twist and stick your hand into.

"Visitors to The Sea & Me will delve into the ocean on our submarine, haul

in catch on our fishing boat, dig in the sand for seashore treasures and see, hear and touch some really cool animals," said Kerry Carlin-Morgan, director of education and volunteer services. "For grownups, one of the great pleasures in life can still be play."

The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund is one of more than 150 organizations and individuals sponsoring this exhibit. In May, the fund provided a \$5,000 grant for the exhibit.

The aquarium, located at 2820 SE Ferry Slip Road in Newport, Ore., is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. though Labor Day (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. after Labor Day).

Tickets are \$18.95 for adults (18-64), \$16.95 for seniors (65+) and young adults (13-17), and \$12.95 for children (3-12). Children age 2 and younger are free.

Lincoln County residents can visit the aquarium for \$5 per person on Wednesdays (proof of residency required).

For more information, call 541-867-FISH (3474) or visit aquarium.org.



The ocean research vessel Sea Lemon lets visitors learn about the tools used to study animals and the ocean. The submarine features a working periscope, simulated ocean views using live animals and lots of things to push, flip, turn and twist.

Tribal Council member Loraine Butler; two of her grandsons, Carl White (second from left) and Joseph White (right); and Syanne Kaiser (left) enjoy a touch pool in a different part of the aquarium.

