



Ginger Vitus poses for a photo in her new wig. Carissa Conklin

Creative grants for coastal artists



Sondra Carr

Artists visit the Weird Sisters LAB during an art walk. The LAB shows the sculptures of Teresa Robinette, the works of William Brown seen on the ceiling, photos by Kathleen Barber and figurines by Brenda West.

Weird Sisters seeks artist grant applicants

BY EMILY LINDBLOM

Every month around the full moon, artists and performers have the chance to win micro-grants for their creative projects.

Weird Sisters Freak Boutique, a clothing store in an old, underground building in Astoria, is giving away \$100 to an artist each month to be used to fund supplies, classes, transportation or other items related to creative projects.

'Albeit unusual'

Sondra Carr, owner of Weird Sisters, thought of the idea when she was giving away gift certificates and donations and wanted to create more of a system.

"One thing I believe strongly in is direct support of creative projects," Carr said. "This seemed like a natural, albeit unusual, way to use my businesses' donations for what we really believed in."

This month, the funds will be given to an artist at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Weird Sisters Freak Boutique. Since no one applied in December, that money was rolled over so this month's winner will receive \$200.

Winner winner

The first micro-grant, awarded in November, went to Joshua Conklin, who performs as a drag queen named Ginger Vitus. Conklin used the \$100 to pay for a new wig for drag shows, including recent appearances at the local Red Dress Party fundraiser and A Very Dragulation New Year's Eve Show.

See Page 11