



Sondra Carr

Weird Sisters trees couch.

Continued from Page 10

Between the physical art of the makeup, the fashion of the costumes and the performance of lip syncing and dancing drag shows are a big creative outlet for Conklin.

"It encompasses every form of art under one umbrella and that's why I enjoy it," Conklin said.

But the costumes can be expensive, and the largest expense comes from the wigs.

"I think for all of us in this smaller rural area, financially we don't have a lot of funds to put toward our art," Conklin said. "The nicest benefit from this grant was to get a nicer wig than I would normally have, and not have to spend 10 hours styling a wig."

Who's next?

Conklin is now on the selection committee to help select future artists for the grants, along with Jessica Standifird, who also applied for the grant in November.

Standifird said she was honored when Carr asked her to be part of the selection committee, and that the grant is supportive

of the local arts community.

"I think this type of grant is what can often make that last push of a project happen, or can be the impetus to get the ball rolling," Standifird said. "The smaller amount makes it possible to help more artists, which is important to me."

An artistic committee

Carr said she wanted the selection committee to be made of people who would apply for the grant, whether or not they win.

"The creatives who are applying will know that their ideas are being judged by people just like them — other creative applicants — and not some faceless gatekeeping entity," Carr said. She added the non-winners on the selection committee will get to see the process and understand what they need to change in their own approach.

Creativity continues

Standifird has been a writer, performer and events organizer for about 20 years, and said her focus is on collaboration and bringing different types of artists together.

She said grants for coastal artists, like



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Aspen Grove in the Weird Sisters LAB.

this one, are crucial.

"The coast has so much to offer and this is a good way to spotlight and boost that," Standifird said. "It also shows a drive toward community building and artists helping artists, which the area can only benefit from."

Though Standifird didn't win the grant in November, her application still led to more opportunities, as she and Carr are now collaborating on upcoming events and workshops.

Carr is hoping to get more and more

applicants each month and to invite a handful of applicants to give a short presentation of their projects during the monthly give-away events.

"I'm hoping to attract an audience who might be open to helping with their own donations toward any of the projects that pique their interest and create another way for creative support for all the applicants," Carr said.

For more information about the grant program, visit the Weird Sisters Freak Boutique Facebook page.