



Mallory Gruben

Jessi Just shares the backstory of the vintage CARTM Recycling shirts that will hang on the history wall in the group's new space.

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heart, down to its raw pieces, and building something new out of it," said Jessi Just, the former operations manager of CARTM Recycling and the new board president for Heart of CARTM.

Heart of CARTM encourages people to save reusable items from the landfill by recycling and reusing them. The group offers workshops to teach people how to create recycled art or repurpose old furniture. All of the classes focus on adding value back to items that might traditionally be seen as trash, such as old side tables or couches.

"We don't need to have all this waste in our community," Just said. There are people who need it. There are ways to use it again. There is value in these discards."

The group also sells repurposed pieces, recycled building materials, donated discards and office supplies from their storefront.

When operating at the Manzanita transfer station, the group provided recycling and other waste management services. It could

directly set aside any usable items brought to the transfer station for the on-site thrift store, instead of sending them to the dump.

Although Heart of CARTM will no longer operate the transfer station, Just said the nonprofit is identical to CARTM Recycling. The only difference is a new location and a "change in perception," Just said.

Residents in Manzanita and the surrounding communities saw CARTM and the transfer station as synonymous, but that was never really the case. The transfer station is owned by Tillamook County, and CARTM operated there on a contract with the county.

"Without operating the transfer station, that slightly changes our mission, and it changes how we talk about what we do," Just said. "We are not CARTM Recycling anymore. We aren't necessarily associated with transfer stations and waste and recycling. We are more ... associated with inspiring creative reuse."

CARTM's new home, fondly named the Office of Reimagination, will pay homage to the organization's past and encourage the community to become part of its future. One wall of the space will be dedicated to

Heart of CARTM

395 Nehalem Blvd, Wheeler

Open Friday through Monday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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the history of CARTM. It will include photos, documents and other information about CARTM's first two decades at the transfer station.

A craft table in the office will always offer a project for visitors to work on.

"Come in, sit down and play with others," Just said. "It feels like a place where really, really great ideas are going to inspire action. We want the community to be part of rebuilding the Heart of CARTM."

For now, the nonprofit will operate on a limited capacity during "extended weekends" on Fridays through Sundays. The shop will stock just a few items at a time, and CARTM will ask the community for specific donations, instead of accepting general drop offs.

"Our (new) building is shared with a cou-

ple of other businesses, and we just don't have the space for people to park and to manage (donation drop offs), quite frankly," Just said.

People can make monetary donations or sign up to volunteer in the shop online at heartofcartm.org. The group also is open to discussing land donations or rentals that would allow CARTM to expand into a larger warehouse and workshop space in Manzanita, Nehalem or Wheeler.

"The great vision is that we will have a workshop for people to be actively upcycling and transforming things," Just said. "The faster we can find the property to make that happen, the quicker we can keep that stuff out of the landfill."

Much like CARTM intends to save items from going to the landfill, Just said that returning as the Heart of CARTM was one way to ensure the organization and its nonprofit status did not become "waste products."

"That's almost the most fascinating piece that I see," Just said. "We are essentially going through our own transformation and our own recycling process."