

# COLORING THE STREETS

## Chalk Art Contest invites a sidewalk show

BY CHANCE SOLEM-PFEIFER

From foot races to a parade, there was no shortage of activities at last year's centennial celebration on the Seaside Promenade.

But when a chalk art contest turned out to be the most popular of Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's events, it secured its place for the next year and beyond, according to Melissa Ousley, marketing and special events manager at the recreation district.

The community contest will kick off with a Friday night art class at Sunset Recreation Center before chalking begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

"Our mission is to provide an opportunity to learn something," Ousley said, adding that "there doesn't have to be a certain standard of

art." The contest's \$35 entrance fee includes a set of pastel paints and other necessary supplies for designing and creating unique chalk art on the Seaside Promenade.

Last year's submissions depicted everything from massive jellyfish to ornate beach kites to a portrait of Sacagawea. Each creation was vividly chalked on a 5-square-foot roped-off area along the Promenade.

The inaugural event drew more than 20 entrants, ranging from ages 5 to 73. Chalk artists included both total novices and professional artists.

The Friday night instruction will enable the event to bridge gaps in age and experience. Portland artists Bev Cordova and May Wallace will guide participants on a two-hour course in pastels, the blend of chalk used in the contest. This chalk produces eye-popping color with a texture that's just

### Chalk Art Contest

Sunset Empire Parks & Recreation District, 1140 Broadway St., Seaside. Chalk art contest along Seaside Promenade

Friday and Saturday

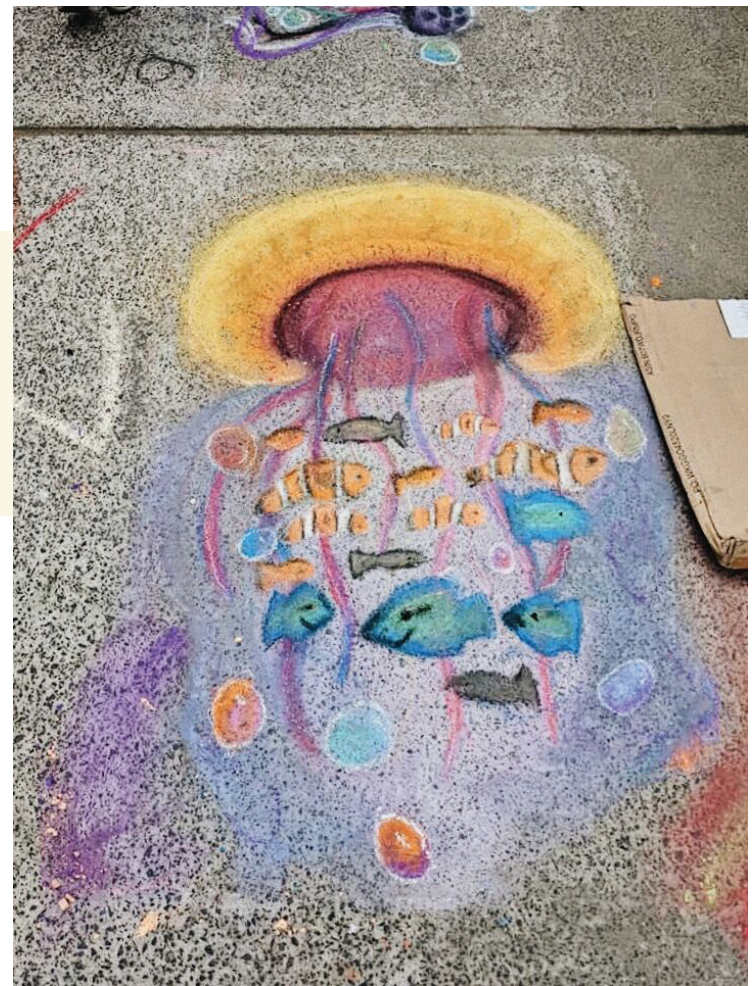
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### A jellyfish, drawn with chalk, on a Seaside sidewalk.

right. It's not as rigid as blackboard chalk nor as soft and unwieldy as most children's outdoor chalk.

Cordova, who specializes in sculpture, is a former Seaside resident. She's previously taught with Wallace and is a pastels expert at Portland's Park Rose High School. When Ousley approached Cordova

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## arts & culture



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