

Deadline near for cultural trust donations

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Anyone who has enjoyed any number of cultural activities in Wallowa County this past year owes a “thank you” to the donors and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Four organizations in particular — Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Wallowa County Cultural Coalition and Wallowa Valley Music Alliance — have benefited.

Those who donate to specific organizations and make a matching gift to the trust receive a cultural tax credit when they file Oregon income tax statements.

The deadline is Dec. 31.

In 2017, the cultural trust awarded \$2.94 million statewide to 136 nonprofits.

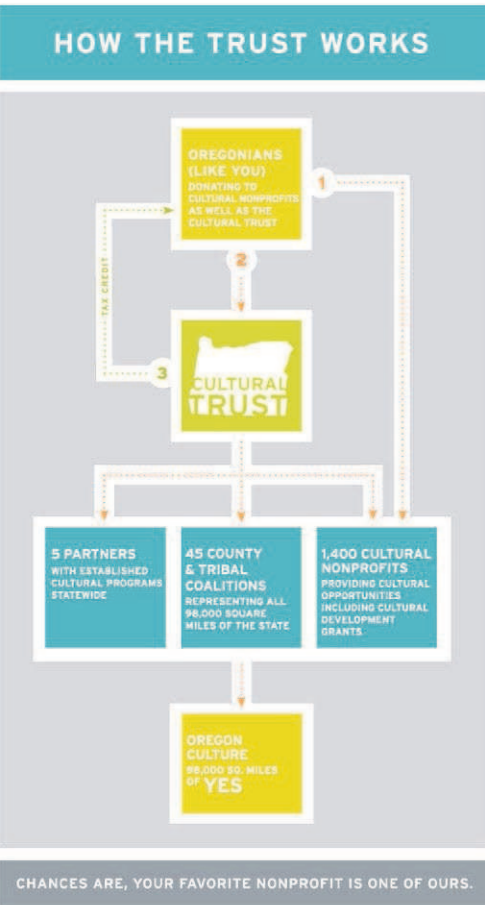
In Wallowa County, Josephy Center received \$21,842.

“The trust grant funds our exhibits and complementary programs such as lectures, Brown Bag lunches, concerts, films and readings,” said Cheryl Coughlan, executive director.

The art exhibit “Puppy Love” opening Jan. 6 is an example, as is a student art show Feb. 21 to March 1. Later in the year, a women’s Art Month event is planned.

One of the highlights of 2018 will be a Portland Jazz Ensemble performance April 13 of “Maxville to VanPort” at OK Theatre in Enterprise.

A new piece of community-guided music incorporating the stories of two unique towns



in Oregon’s history will be presented.

Maxville and Vanport both had significant multicultural populations at a time when Oregon was particularly unfriendly to nonwhite

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Donate to one or more of the libraries, arts organizations or museums in the community, then make a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust at culturaltrust.org by Dec. 31. When you file your 2017 state taxes, the donation you made to the Cultural Trust will come back to taxpayers via the cultural tax credit, effectively doubling the impact of a qualifying donation.

residents,

The song that will become part of a larger work and will gather input from people who care about these stories.

Audience members will hear vocalist Marilyn Keller and composer and pianist Ezra Weiss perform the song “From Maxville to Vanport,” featuring text by Renee Mitchell.

Commentary from all three as well as Maxville Heritage Executive Director Gwendolyn Trice and former Vanport resident Edward Washington will follow, along with robust discussion with the audience.

Other cultural events are planned at Josephy in June, July and August, funded through the Oregon Cultural Trust program.

The Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center received \$27,657 from the cultural trust. It is also known as the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland, according to executive director Angela Bombaci.

“We own 350 acres in Wallowa, have a visitor center in town and host the Tamka-

liks celebration pow wow each July,” Bombaci said.

A portion of the most recent grant is targeted for interpretive development at the grounds and the visitor center.

Wallowa Valley Music Alliance received \$8,542 and Wallowa County Cultural Coalition snagged \$7,063.

The alliance sponsors an annual fiddle tunes camp, courthouse concert music series, Juniper Jam and other events throughout the year. Wallowa County Cultural Coalition is a pass-through organization, using the money it receives to fund other cultural events through a competitive grant process. Grants range from \$250 to \$1,000 per organization.

Past recipients of coalition funding in the county have included Oregon’s Alpenfest, Eagle Cap Extreme, Fishtrap, Ruby Peak Film Festival, Wallowa Land Trust, Wallowa County Farmers Market, Wallowa Valley Arts Council and others.

“Our mission is to lead Oregon in cultivating, growing and valuing culture as an integral part of our communities,” said Charles F. Sams, vice chair of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

The program was created in 2002 by the Oregon Legislature. No other state provides a 100 percent tax credit to inspire cultural giving.

In 2015, Oregonians gave \$4.56 million to the Cultural Trust, an all-time record. Sixty percent of that went back to community organizations.

The remaining 40 percent helped grow the organization’s permanent fund.

HOW ARE WE DOING? Joseph surveys its residents

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

New Joseph City Council member Kathy Bingham didn’t take long to have an impact. At her first official meeting in October, she suggested the city survey its citizens to learn their priorities.

Bingham said she hit upon the survey idea when she filled out her application for the council position. One of the questions on the application asked the three hottest issues for Joseph citizens and how the council could respond to the concerns.

“I said to myself, ‘How would I know?’ We have to ask the citizens,” she said. “My opinion doesn’t matter ... We have to have citizen involve-

ment in our city government.”

A survey seemed the logical answer to Bingham, and with the council’s unanimous approval, she went about creating one. The survey went out as part of the city’s November newsletter in late November. It can also be obtained at Joseph City Hall and on the city’s website: josephoregon.org.

The survey asks citizens to name their top six priorities for the council in order of importance. Other questions ask for gender, age group categories 18-34; 35-49; 50-65 and 65 and older. While the survey doesn’t ask for names, it asks for addresses to make certain that respondents live within the city limits.

“It’s important for us to have a good cross-section of

age groups and males and females,” Bingham said.

The council wanted the survey to go out to anyone who owned property in Joseph and perhaps lived elsewhere.

“If people have a vested interest in Joseph, such as a business, and they happen to live outside of town, I’d still like to know what they’re thinking,” Bingham said.

The surveys were sent to everyone who receives a water bill in the city.

Bingham estimates that 50-70 surveys of the 600 or so that went out have been returned to city hall so far. While she is pleased with the response, she said that a 20-25 percent return would show a clearer view. She also said she recognizes it’s winter and some citi-

zens have departed for warmer climes.

“I don’t care if you’re 16, I don’t care if you’re 85,” Bingham said.

ham said. “If you have some thoughts about what we should be doing, get a survey, fill it out, and send it in. That’s how

the council will know what citizens want us to do.”

Joseph City Hall is at 201 N. Main St.

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To reserve space in our Jan. 3rd edition, the deadline is **NOON Thursday, Dec. 28th 2017**

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Wallowa County CHIEFTAIN

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Thank you for a wonderful 2017

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Wishing everyone a prosperous new year!

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