

Josephy Center receives large OCF grant

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture has received a grant that will give it a major boost in funding its programs in 2021, especially as it looks to restructure the information it presents.

The center has received a grant of \$30,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation, an award that was part of more than \$4.3 million OCF announced in May.

"This funding was primarily for us to build upon our existing programs. But in a way that really reflects what's going on in our community and in the world," said Kellee Sheehy, Josephy's development director. "For instance, with our youth services, the funding is helping to pay to help maintain the programs we already have in place. A lot of the momentum really came to a screeching halt in 2020."

OCF said in a press release the grant monies were prioritized to support communities "disproportionately impacted by the multiple crises in Oregon, including Black, indigenous and Latina/o/x communities, people of color and rural communities."

Information specifically on the Josephy's funding from OCF said the money



The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph received a grant of \$30,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

would be used to help build the audience "through rebuilding and restructuring programs to address and focus on (diversity, equity and inclusivity) priorities and issues in a rural, largely white

community."

"It was asking about ultimate success, and what our ultimate vision of success for these programs is we're helping nudge the culture of Wallowa County in the direction

of inclusivity and understanding," Sheehy said.

Sheehy, who handles grant writing for the center, said it has received funding from OCF in the past, and that it applied for a grant from the

foundation because the values of the two align.

"It does have to do with that lean toward maybe becoming leaders in the community as far as introducing diversity, equity and inclu-

sion," she said. "It's part of what the Josephy board is integrating into its plan."

She added that many of the groups that give grant money, like OCF, want to see programs run by organizations like the Josephy resume.

"It's because a lot of the granters too, they want to see programs started back. They want to support the organizations that are doing that, just to restart and get everyone connected again," she said. "Then adding our diversity, equity and inclusion and extending our reach, those are all things to do with our growth."

She added improvements within Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility and audio in the center also could be included in "inclusivity," and how the center continues to present its teaching about the Nez Perce.

"We're retelling their story, but what does it mean? Maybe it's a drum circle outside," that could be used as a teaching mechanism for visitors, or for a tool to help tribe members feel more welcome, she said. "Wallowa County, it's kind of a place that ... I tell people all the time, we are diverse in our own ways. We got ranchers and farmers, but there are other ways that we can share that type of information with kids and help them learn about it."



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Call to artists goes out for festival

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture invites artists to submit original works of art for inclusion in the 39th annual Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts.

The application deadline is Aug. 1. All artwork must be submitted through the online site at callforentry.org. Acceptance emails will be sent Aug. 9-13. For more information and for the prospectus visit www.josephy.org/festival-of-the-arts.

The festival is the largest juried fine art exhibition in Eastern Oregon, featuring representational realism as well as contemporary art from the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

This year's festival — which includes an opening reception, a fine arts show, a quick draw, a silent auction, the Joseph Gallery Walk and live music — will be held Sept. 17-19.

Leading up to the weekend, the Center will offer art workshops for local and visiting artists, as well as an En Plein Air Competition from



Josephy Center for Arts and Culture/Contributed Photo
Laura Gable's Pinnacles at Smith Rock, an entry in the 38th Annual Wallowa Valley Arts Festival.

Sept. 11-17. The festivities will wrap up with a Sunday, Sept. 19, evening music concert held at the center.

The festival reflects the beauty, culture and traditions of the region through its arts and artists. Consistent with that intent, any subject, style, or medium within the categories listed below will be considered. Exhibition space is

limited, so jurors will select pieces that are most appropriate for the venue and diverse audience.

The categories are:

- Sculpture.
- Painting.
- Drawing.
- Printmaking.
- Photography.
- Any three-dimensional work in wood, clay, stone,

bronze, or other metal, oil, acrylic or watercolor.

• Pastel, pencil, graphite, charcoal, ink, or any combination thereof woodblock, engraving, etching, monoprint, aquatint, linotype, lithography, silkscreen or digital art prints.

• Any photograph that begins with the capture of the image through lens, including digitally-altered photography.

Accepted artists also are invited to enter one piece of art in the silent auction. An auction piece is not required as a condition to exhibit in the festival. For more details, please refer to the prospectus.

Dennis DeHart, a distinguished photographic artist and associate professor of art at Washington State University, will be this year's festival judge. DeHart, who has exhibited broadly — including dozens of solo exhibitions — creates interdisciplinary projects that are informed by the connections and conflicts of the natural and cultural worlds. For more information about DeHart, please visit josephy.org.

For any questions regarding art submissions, contact the center at 541-432-0505, or coordinator Cheryl Coughlan at 541-398-1294, director@josephy.org, or Jeff Costello 510-390-2121 jeffcostello1234@yahoo.com.

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Saturday, June 5th

8am - 3pm • Meet at Wallowology!

Join Ecologist Dr. David Mildrexler as he explores the proposed Joseph Canyon Wilderness – its ancient forests, expansive grasslands, and rich cultural history.

Learn about this intact landscape's capacity for protecting water, salmon and wildlife, and its role mitigating the effects of climate change.

Pre-registration required • info@wallowology.org



David Jensen

Wallowology!

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508 N. Main • Joseph • wallowology.org • info@wallowology.org • Thurs - Sun, 10am-3pm



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