

# An art center for Grant County

By Lisa Britton  
Go! Magazine

CANYON CITY — Talks began in 2018 to establish an art center in Grant County.

"We wanted to create more of an art scene, and gather these artists together," said Kim Randleas.

Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 S. Washington St., opened in the fall of 2019.

"Not very good timing," Randleas said.

Several months later, the coronavirus pandemic wreaked havoc on their plans.

"We were open, closed, open, closed, virtual," she said.

They made up for it this summer, thanks to several grants geared toward re-engaging students after a nontraditional school year.

"This summer was amazing," Randleas said.

The center offered six summer camps, and organized outdoor movie and craft nights once a month.

The art center occupies two buildings, to the north and south of Canyon City Park. One is a former restaurant, and the ceramics studio is in the former kitchen area. A leather shop is in the back.



Painted Sky Center for the Arts/Contributed photo  
A "dips and dots" art class for youngsters included three days of art activities this summer at Grant County's Painted Sky Center for the Arts in Canyon City.

The second building is used for youth activities. It has three classrooms for the afterschool program, which also includes all day on Fridays, when school is not in session.

"The kids are safe, and making art,"

Randleas said.

Four instructors and the youth programs supervisor oversee the 30 students in the program. Each day has a different theme: painting on Monday, poetry on Tuesday, drawing on Wednes-

day, fiber on Thursday and mixed media or movie making on Friday.

Randleas said Alicia Griffin is "the driving force behind the youth programs" — especially theater.

"She's making sure the kids have theater," Randleas said.

The center produced one youth play in 2019, one in 2020, and will present two in 2021.

As for the monthly movies, the activity will continue this fall and winter inside the theater space in Canyon City Community Hall.

## WORKSHOPS

Art classes and workshops — ranging from leather to ceramics to paint — are planned for the fall. To see the offerings, and register, go to [www.paintedskycenter.com](http://www.paintedskycenter.com). Updates are also posted on the center's Facebook page.

Scholarships are available.

"We don't want any barriers to access," Randleas said. "We want everyone to be involved in the art center and the arts."

Memberships include perks such as 10% off class costs. Memberships are \$25 for students, \$40 for adults, or \$60 for artists.



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EAST 541.624.2800  
1006 PENN AVENUE  
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