

November and December are 'Seasons of Caring' in Gallery One

The Florence Events Center Gallery Committee is presenting a themed exhibit during the months of November and December in Gallery One, titled "A Season of Caring." Art will include photographs, paintings and 3D works, all with a theme of social needs (children, elderly, homeless, veterans, etc.), and ways to care (service animals, health professionals, volunteers, etc.), foods of the harvest season or themes involving Thanksgiving, Christmas and

family.

On Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a reception that will benefit the Florence Food Share and Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) nonprofit organizations.

There will be a bin for food donations, and one for donations of warm coats and blankets to help those in need in our community.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be

a "soup kitchen" style lunch with live music offered to gallery visitors. For \$1, attendees will be served soup and bread, coffee and water. There will also be an art raffle to benefit Food Share and SOS, with local artists donating artworks and jewelry for the raffle.

All proceeds from the art raffle and soup kitchen lunch will be donated to Food Share and SOS.



Local artists can 'Dance With Sea Lions' in celebration of FEC's 20th anniversary



CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER

Season of Caring exhibit reception —
Nov. 14
LRP's production of "Chicago" —
Nov. 6-8 and 13-15
Monkey Bugs — Nov. 14
Ken Lavigne concert — Nov. 21
Festival of Trees — Nov. 28-29

DECEMBER

FRAA Art Festival — Dec. 4 & 5
Empty Bowls — Dec. 4-6
Light up a Life — Dec. 11-12
Poison Pen Players "Dead in the Sled"
— Dec. 12
Community Chorus "Appalachian Concert"
— Dec. 13
Eugene Ballet's "The Nutcracker" —
Dec. 15
Concealed Weapons Training —
Dec. 16
Jazz Kings Christmas —
Dec. 17
Oregon Brass Band holiday concert —
Dec. 20



ONGOING EVENTS:
Florence Rotary Club luncheon -
Tuesdays at noon

Next year marks the FEC's 20th anniversary as a leader in community arts and entertainment. A coastwide celebration of this milestone will come in the form of the iconic sea lion and its longstanding relationship with the Florence area. Jennifer Connor, FEC marketing specialist and event coordinator, said, "This is a project not just for the FEC and our celebration, but a project for the city, community and whole Oregon coast."

Dancing with Sea Lions will be a public art display sponsored by the nonprofit group Friends of the Florence Events Center and local businesses and individuals.

Twenty area artists have an opportunity to be a large part of the historic project, which is centered around 20 fiberglass sea lions that are 7.5-feet tall. Each is a blank canvas that can be decorated to reflect the artist's own unique style. Sponsorships are now available for the project. Sponsoring a sea lion costs \$1,500, with a total of 20 sponsorships available. Other sponsorship options are also available. For example, two businesses, Sea Lion Caves and Three Rivers Casino and Resort, have teamed up under the name "Stellar Underwriters."

Forms and information are available at the FEC, Banner Bank and Oregon Pacific Bank.

"I keep going back to our original theme, that the arts have a ripple effect on the community. Art reaches out to all ages, and this project will reach out to all ages too," Connor said.

The "blank canvas" is a plain design nicknamed "Porter," which is modeled after a cow sea lion.

The Dancing with Sea Lions committee based the active design on the logo, initially created by Karylenn Keppol, of Florence, who is now at The Art Institute of Portland. Keppol's sea lion design is also featured on Dancing with Sea Lions geocache coins, created by Cheryl Pinnock. The coins will be awarded to geocache enthusiasts who are awarded codes for visiting the various sea lions on display.

The project officially kicked off Nov. 1, when the call to artists went out. A grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund will provide a \$500 stipend for the artists who are selected and complete their project.

"In the beginning, they will get \$250 up front so that they can get their supplies and start the project. When the sea lion is completed, they'll get another \$250. We hope that's an incentive to bring in the artists, and that will get a lot of ideas going," said Connor, who explained that a line-art drawing will be available for artists to compose their color sketch, where they

will also need to list design elements and materials.

All artist applications will be due by the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 4.

"I hope that our local artists really jump in and get excited about this. It's an opportunity for them to be recognized," Connor said.

The Florence Public Arts Committee is helping set standards, so certain designs will not be allowed.

Selected artists will be notified by the end of December. They will receive their statues in early January and finish work in March, before the April 7 and 8 Dancing with Sea Lions Splash Off, when all 20 unique sea lions will be on display at the FEC.

"I foresee some of these sea lions will be in the area for years," said Connor.

While they are on display, a map will detail each of the 20 locations, starting at the Umpqua Discovery Center in Reedsport, stretching through Florence to the Sea Lion Caves on Highway 101 and up toward the Sea Lion Foundation in Newport. Many of the sea lions will be available for auction in October 2016.

For more information about Dancing with Sea Lions, visit www.facebook.com/DancingWithSeaLions.

CENTERSTAGE

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