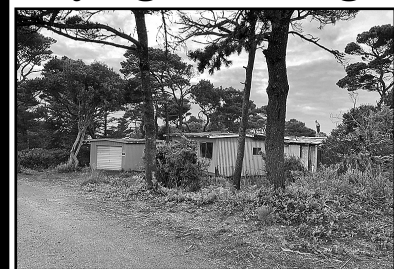


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City of Florence releases finalists for next round of Art Exposed

The City of Florence announced that there are 11 finalists for the five locations of the Public Art Committee's Art Exposed program, a rotating outdoor art gallery in Historic Old Town Florence. The finalists represent artists from the Florence area, as well as from across the State of Oregon, Pacific Northwest region and internationally.

The Public Arts Committee is interested in hearing from the community about the proposed finalists.

Art Exposed is an outdoors, rotating art gallery with sites located along Bay Street in the heart of Old Town Florence. Currently, the program has four pieces that are on display, which are due to be replaced in

Summer 2020. A fifth Art Exposed location is being added at Maple Street Park.

The Public Arts Committee had originally planned to make these decisions at the Public Arts Committee meeting in March, but, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, all city committee meetings have been cancelled up until now.

The Public Art Committee will now be making these decisions at its meeting on Monday, July 27, at 5:30 p.m.

Due to safety precautions related to the virus, the meeting will be held virtually through the GoTo Webinar platform, but the committee welcomes and encourages the public to submit public comment pri-

or to the meeting.

To view the finalists, people can visit the project webpage at www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac/art-exposed-program-finalists. Comments on the finalists can be submitted via email to Sarah Moehrke, Community & Economic Development Assistant at Sarah.Moehrke@ci.florence.or.us or by mailing comments to Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101, Florence, OR 97439.

Art Exposed has been one of the most successful programs of the Florence Public Art Committee, providing members of the local arts community to display their work, as well as international artists.

The art chosen will be dis-

played for two years and the chosen artists will be given a stipend of \$1,000. The pieces, while on display, are for sale to locals as well as the estimated 750,000 people that visit Florence annually. Thirty percent of the proceeds from every sale from the Art Exposed program is reinvested into the public art program for future projects.

The Committee has been successful in selling work from the first wave of Art Exposed.

For more information on the Art Exposed program and the current pieces on display, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac/art-exposed-florence-rotating-outdoor-art-gallery.

GRANT from page 1A

One of the main stipulations for consideration of funding requests is that the money should be used to support job training and education and for the distribution of personal protection equipment (PPE) to workers with low or moderate incomes.

City Recorder Kelli Weese walked councilors through the requirements of the application and the process used to decide to apply. The grant will go toward offering scholarships to local residents who wish to train at Lane Community College (LCC) Florence Center, 3149 Oak St.

"We are looking to provide those low- to moderate-income workers in the Florence region with either a scholarship to the shortened Tourism Industry Training or the full Environmental Services Aide Program," Weese said. "Once those parties have completed those programs, we'd like to provide them with PPE for those students to use in the workplace as well as at home."

According to Weese, the city has determined three main issues that need to be addressed in order to rebuild decimated local businesses: rebuilding trust for social places; maintaining safe and clean local businesses; and providing personal protective equipment for workers.

All three areas were determined to be essential for a comprehensive local recovery — with each of these areas potentially being positively impacted by the ap-

proval of this grant request.

As primarily a service-related economy, Florence has a growing need for workers to be trained in the proper procedures to deal with COVID-19 when working in hotels, restaurants and retail locations.

LCC has responded by adding classes that will not only provide needed jobs, but an opportunity for a long-term career in medical services while also learning important new skills that are specifically designed to deal with COVID-19. The program currently in place is the Environmental Services Aide Program, which helps train workers in reducing the spread of germs in healthcare facilities and hospitals.

The training also provides a comprehensive review of chemicals, waste disposal, cleaning and disinfecting in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Russ Pierson, Dean of LCC's Florence Center, spoke to the council and reviewed the changing nature of service sector jobs, sharing his belief that there are clear benefits to the already existing Environmental Services Aide program.

"The college has to go through a very strict regimen when we have a pro-

gram certified, and I should note this program is certified in two ways," Pierson explained to council members and those viewing the meeting online. "It is certified with the Bureau of Labor and Industries, as a pre-apprenticeship program, and it is also certified with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. So, students are getting a valid, very prestigious certificate as part of this program."

There would also likely be an additional option for interested workers in the form of a shortened, more condensed course which would provide basic information that would allow an individual to be employed in a shorter period of time.

With few clarifications needed by councilors, the request by staff for approval of Resolution 17 was passed unanimously as was Resolution 18, Series 2020, which updated the COVID-related procedures in place to allow for public input at virtual Florence City Council meetings.

The next city council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20.

To view the complete June 22 Florence City Council meeting, go to www.ci.florence.or.us.

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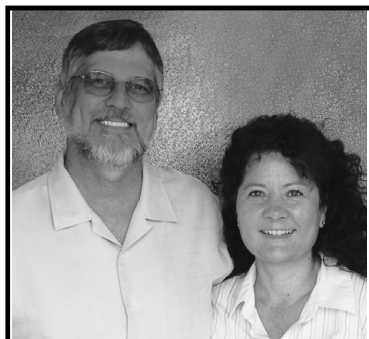
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