

Local artist awarded grant for 'Portrait of Cottage Grove'

Uyen-Thi Nguyen, founder of "Delight" in Cottage Grove, won a \$2,000 artist grant from Lane Arts Council.

"A Portrait of Cottage Grove" will be a solo art exhibition and published art book comprised of oil portraits and a few urban landscapes.

It was the first time Lane Arts Council announces \$9,120 in grants to five individual artists in the Eugene area.

The Artist Grant program was launched by Lane Arts Council in 2020 and is funded by the City of Eugene Cultural Services Division, Banner Bank and individual donors.

Cottage Grove artist Nguyen was awarded the grant to develop a series of paintings and drawings of Cottage Grove residents for a solo exhibition and published art book entitled "A Portrait of Cottage Grove."

"A city is not solely its architecture, landscapes or residences. The heart of any city lies in its communities," said Nguyen. "My vision is to do a portrait of a city through its people."

The grant period begins July 2020 and will culminate in exhibitions

at local museums, galleries, public libraries and spaces by June 2021.

Nguyen has just launched a public Facebook page "ART by UTN" to engage community members to help "write" the story.

"It is the tale of all of us. We are all unique, and different, and similar and beautiful," Nguyen said "The sparks of vitality are within us if we take a minute to look. I celebrate these faces and hope to portray them with spirit.

"There's a bit of everyone in each of us, and a bit of no one. Perhaps in looking at this broad picture of what it is to be a city, folks living together, people in different socio-economic classes, of different beliefs, viewpoints, job histories, relationships, we will discover some beautiful secrets about society, humanity and ourselves."

Nguyen's art is on view this month in the "Around Oregon Annual" at The Arts Center in Corvallis and at The Axe & Fiddle in Cottage Grove.

A Virtual Awards Ceremony will be held Tuesday, Aug. 18, beginning at 4 p.m. and streaming on Lane Arts Council Facebook page.

Hot-Doggin' it for first responders



COURTESY PHOTO

Beth Martin from the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce (seated) picks up "thank you" lunches made at Magnolia Gardens and given out to local first responders, doctors, nurses and community supporters. Magnolia Gardens administrator Tara Blount was onhand, relishing a chance to provide some hot-dog-themed support.

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