



Crossroads Carnegie Art Center/Contributed Photo

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center has launched a Giving Tuesday campaign, which starts Nov. 29. Donations help support programs such as ballet classes.

Giving

Continued from A1

By contrast, a deduction can reduce the amount of your income before you calculate the tax you owe.

The cultural tax credit works like this:

- Donate to one or more cultural organizations that are registered with the Oregon Cultural Trust (find a list, by county, at <https://culturaltrust.org/get-involved/find-a-cultural-non-profit/>).

- Donate the same amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust (you can combine donation amounts made to several non-profits).

- Report your donation to the Trust on your state tax form to get 100% back (up to \$500 for individuals or \$1,000 for couples filing jointly).

“Every penny you give to us, you get that back on your state taxes,” said Brian Rogers, executive director of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

What does the trust fund?

These cultural donations are earmarked for very specific uses.

First, a percentage goes to the Trust’s five partners: Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Humanities, Oregon Heritage Commission, State Historic Preservation Office and the Oregon Historical Society.

Then, each of Oregon’s 36 counties and nine tribes receives money, which in turn is distributed in local communities for 400 to 500 awards across Oregon.

“Their reach is pretty tremendous,” Rogers said.

Locally, the Baker County Cultural Coalition awards grants up to \$500 through an application process. Application deadlines are Dec. 15 and May

15. For details, go to https://www.baker-county.org/cultural_plan/grants.html.

Pandemic problems

Rogers said, judging by reported data, cultural nonprofits lost 70% to 75% of revenue when the pandemic put a stop to performances, concerts, classes and more.

“The bottom fell out,” he said.

However, contributions during that time increased by about 11%.

“People recognized the value cultural experiences have in their lives,” he said.

He said donations to the Trust also increased — in 2021, a total of 11,000 contributions equaled \$5.7 million. The average donation was \$450.

“It’s a lot of small donations that add up to a big impact,” he said.

The Trust also distributed \$26 million in federal funds through the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) to help both nonprofit and for-profit cultural venues rebound from the pandemic.

“It’s slowly building back up,” he said.

He said the pandemic did have a silver lining — with many meetings going to a virtual platform, OCT was able to attend board meetings across the state to talk about the Trust.

He said they attended 160 meetings in 2020.

The license plate

Funds raised through the tax credit program can only directly support culture and arts in Oregon.

Marketing and promoting the Trust — including the tax credit — is funded through sales of a special license plate.

A new design, 18 months in the making, was released Oct. 1, 2021 — coinciding with the Trust’s 20th anniversary.

The plate is a colorful depiction of the vast landscape of Oregon — mountains, rivers, coastline.

And, embedded within the design, are 127 symbols representing aspects of Oregon culture.

“The goal was lofty — we wanted a single piece of artwork that represented all of Oregon culture,” said Carrie Kikel, communications manager for the Oregon Cultural Trust and Oregon Arts Commission.

To begin the process, a group drafted a creative brief to explain the project. Then, 33 people across the state nominated artists and designers.

This garnered interest from 36 people who were asked to share a resume and work samples.

Then, a jury of statewide representatives reviewed the submissions and narrowed the list. The remaining artists and designers were asked to create a preliminary concept, and paid a \$250 honorarium.

An expanded jury reviewed the concepts and scored each based on how well it related to the creative brief.

Liza Burns of Eugene was chosen as the artist for the project, titled Celebrate Oregon!

Then planning began for the final design, which included Burns meeting with experts through the Governor’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

“How do you make sure you’re including symbols to make sure every Oregonian feels like part of the art?” Kikel said.

The symbols are incorporated into the design, but an interactive map online makes it easy to see them all, in black and white. And, if you hover over a number, a box pops up explaining the

symbol and how it relates to Oregon.

Find the map at <https://culturaltrust.org/celebrateoregon/license-plate-narrative/>.

Kikel worked with many people to develop the narratives.

“To make sure it’s as true as possible to that symbol’s connection to Oregon,” she said. “More than 100 people worked together to fulfill this dream.”

She learned a lot about Oregon during the research — for instance, Oregon has the oldest magic society west of the Mississippi River, and Rogue Creamery’s Rogue River Blue was named the best cheese in the world at the 2019 World Cheese Awards in Italy.

Here’s a sample of what else you’ll find on the plate:

- Ramona Quimby, beloved book character created by Oregon author Beverly Cleary.
- A wagon wheel to celebrate the Oregon Trail.
- A glass of beer to honor the craft beer industry.
- Paintbrush to honor artists.
- A hat to recognize George Fletcher, a Black man who competed in the 1911 Pendleton Round-Up.

Celebrate Oregon!

Kikel said license plate sales have quadrupled since the new design debuted.

In addition to the plate, Burns created murals that are on display at four airports: Eugene, Medford, Portland and Redmond.

“The artwork serves as a wonderful introduction to Oregon,” Kikel said. “The whole concept is to celebrate our art, culture and humanities. It is so much more than a license plate.”

For more information, visit culturaltrust.org/celebrateoregon/.

Reading

Continued from A1

The goal is to inspire a love of reading for children beginning years before they can actually make out the words themselves.

On Monday, Nov. 21, OTEC presented the first book bag to Cebrina Phillips-Baggerly and her infant daughter, Erin May Warner.

Each bag contains a book, packet of information, and sign up information for the free Imagination Library program.

“We wanted to gift the first book, so that book is directly from OTEC, to really make the program stand out a little bit,” said Lea Hoover, director of memberships and strategic services and executive director of the OTEC Member Foundation.

Children receive a new book every month through the foundation, and multiple children in the same family can sign up to receive their own book.

Hoover said each age range gets different books, so there aren’t duplicates. The books offered change every year.

“What we find is that kids are so excited to get that mail from Dolly Parton,” Hoover said. “They’re so excited to get that mail that they’re looking forward to the book and we hope that it really inspires parents to read with their children.”

Hoover said OTEC considers the book program the first scholarship offered to the cooperative’s youngest members.

“We know that early childhood literacy is a huge part of making healthy communities,” she said.

Since OTEC started offering the Imagination Library program in 2019, the cooperative has mailed information to more than 55,000 children in Baker, Grant, Union and Harney counties.

Hoover said the program runs through the nonprofit OTEC Member Foundation and is funded through OTEC unclaimed capital credits.

Aletha Bonebrake, an OTEC board member and chairwoman of the Baker County Library Foundation, learned about the Imagination Library program after meeting Jan Rippey.

Starting in 2022, OTEC made it possible for people to sponsor a membership in the Imagination Library program for children who live outside OTEC’s service area. The cost is \$25 per year.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a child can email OTEC at communications@otec.coop or call 541-524-2847.

Proud to Welcome Samuel Capra, MD to Baker City

Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Surgeon



If your life has been disrupted by a bone, joint or muscle problem, Dr. Capra is here to provide the necessary surgical and non-surgical treatment you need here **locally** – compassionately, collaboratively and with the highest level of quality care.

Whether you’re a student-athlete with a torn ACL or an active adult who wants to return to golf, Dr. Capra and his team of athletic trainers and physical therapists have you covered. They will tailor a recovery plan that is right for you, to get you back to performing at your best.

Treating injuries related to:

- Ligament sprains/tears
- Shoulder
- Tendon or muscle strain
- Hand
- Elbow
- Tendinitis
- Hip
- Knee
- Fractures
- Foot
- Ankle
- Sports/activity injury



Saint Alphonsus
Orthopedics
3325 Pochahontas Rd.
Baker City, OR 97814
Phone: 541-524-8000



Saint Alphonsus
A Member of Trinity Health

Our calling is you.

You can't get to hunting camp on wimpy tires

Tires LES SCHWAB



We've got what you need to track your buck in any terrain.

Come see our full line of traction tires
#huntingredneck #gokilladeer #didyougetyourtags

LEW BROTHERS LES SCHWAB
210 Bridge Street, Baker City
541-523-3679

Walk-ins Welcome