

Art centers pivot during the pandemic

EASTERN OREGON ART CENTERS

Pendleton Center for the Arts

214 N. Main St., Pendleton
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, noon-4 p.m.
pendletonarts.org

Art Center East

1006 Penn Ave., La Grande
Wednesday-Friday, noon-5 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
artcentereast.org

Joseph Center for Arts & Culture

403 N. Main St., Joseph
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
josephy.org

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center

2020 Auburn Ave., Baker City
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
www.crossroads-arts.org

Painted Sky Center for the Arts

118 Washington Ave., Canyon City
paintedskycenter.com

** The art centers also post
updates on social media*

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

Art centers across Eastern Oregon are still weathering the effects of the pandemic, but directors in the region agree that the arts are essential.

"It's more important than ever," said Darcy Dolge, executive director of Art Center East in La Grande. "The arts are here to remind people of kindness and compassion and what really matters."

Art centers have continued to provide artistic opportunities in whatever way possible despite the ever-changing times.

"Our main interaction with the community is classes," Dolge said.

ACE was closed, with staff furloughed, in 2020 from March to August.

"The board did an amazing job of grant writing and keeping everything alive," Dolge said.



Art Center East/Contributed image
Classes, such as this one on batik painting at Art Center East in La Grande, are still offered at art centers across Eastern Oregon, although most are at reduced enrollment due to space.

And artists stepped forward to help by donating work to raise funds for the center.

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center in Baker City was closed for 50 days, reopening

May 15, 2020.

"And we've never closed since then," said Ginger Savage, executive director.

Crossroads has a First Friday art show opening every

month, and those have continued during the last two years. Attendance, however, has not returned to pre-pandemic numbers.

Crossroads restarted adult classes in May 2020.

"All of our classes were really tiny," Savage said.

Youth classes are back now, and the studio at Crossroads has welcomed three ballet classes this month.

"It's been really joyful," Savage said. "It's good to have that back, that laughter."

Dolge said classes at ACE are filling up but continue to have decreased capacity.

"The majority of art centers have limited space," she said.

But people are still signing up.

"People are so excited to be there," Dolge said.

The Joseph Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph canceled classes and exhibit receptions, but those are returning.

SUPPORT CROSSROADS – YOUR COMMUNITY ART CENTER



2020 Auburn Avenue
Baker City, Oregon
541.523.5369

Crossroads is open
Monday - Saturday
10:00am - 5:00pm



Gallery • Classes • Special Events

Visit www.crossroads-arts.org to become a member.