



# DRY CANYON Arts ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2026

Greetings and Happy New Year to you. It's been quite a year for Dry Canyon Arts. Here's a little recap. The year started off with the incredible news that the Housing Works building was back on the table for consideration. This was news that we could only hope for the last couple of years. And now 11 months later it's a reality! The Dry Canyon Community Art Center, this is a community art center for everyone in Central Oregon. It is a place for artists to show their work, share their work, teach their art and generally enjoy our community. Thank you to all of the many, many volunteers and supporters that put in time, materials and effort to make this happen. It wouldn't have happened without you.



Of course, Dry Canyon Arts continued with the programs; Lend Me Your Walls, First Friday Art Walk, Spring and Fall Art shows and supporting our children by donating art and money to the Jumpstart Art program. Jumpstart Art is our program to fund visual art education for the 3000 children in the Redmond school district in grades K through 5. Without our efforts there would be no funding for this important segment for our early learners.

Rarely are we given the opportunity to make an impact that has the potential of lasting for many decades. We have been given that opportunity and we have risen to the challenge.

It's been my pleasure to serve our community for the last several years as chair of Dry Canyon Arts. It has been enormously challenging but at the same time very gratifying to work with such fine people as are on our board. Now I'm going to pass the ball over to Jay who will lead our organization into great things for the next several years.

*Thanks again, Mel Archer*

I have said it before, and I will say it again: none of DCAA's accomplishments could have been realized without the leadership and conviction of Mel Archer. My deepest appreciation for Mel does not come close to what he truly deserves. **Thank you, Mel.**



I feel as though I am stepping into the helm of what was once the SS Minnow and is now a luxury cruise ship. DCAA has undergone a remarkable transformation since I joined the association just two and a half years ago—and the future is so bright, I'm gonna need shades!

DCAA's programs are moving in only one direction: full steam ahead. Our membership continues to grow, our volunteerism—which keeps us afloat—increases week by week, and our community is eagerly anticipating our next port of call. DCAA will not disappoint.

We have ambitious plans for the future of both DCAA and the Dry Canyon Community Art Center. With many irons in the fire, we are actively building what comes next: classes are being developed, gallery exhibitions are being planned, an executive director search is being discussed, and along with all the other programs, the Spring Show and Sale is taking shape. Your DCAA Board is working diligently to bring you, our members, the very best we can offer. (Truth be told, I feel a bit more like cruise director Julie McCoy than Captain Stubing—Love Boat fans will understand.)

It is with a humble heart that I accepted the nomination to serve as DCAA's next Chair of the Board. I am committed to carrying forward our mission and vision of art education and community engagement in Redmond and throughout Central Oregon. The growth of our community depends on each of us doing our part, and I hope my contribution honors that responsibility.

All hands on deck (and sunglasses at the ready), Jay Lowndes

## To Our Generous Donors and Founding Sponsors

As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with immense gratitude. Thanks to your generous support and belief in our vision, the doors of the new Dry Canyon Community Art Center officially opened on December 5, 2025. This incredible milestone would not have been possible without you.

Your donations—both in funds and materials—transformed our dream of a vibrant, welcoming art center into a beautiful reality. With your help, we were able to renovate the building and create a space that will inspire creativity, connection, and community for years to come.

We are truly grateful for your partnership and investment in the arts. The impact of your generosity will be felt by artists, families, and the entire community. As a new year begins, we celebrate what we have accomplished together in 2025 and look forward to all the creativity and collaboration the future will bring.

From all of us at the Dry Canyon Community Art Center, thank you for making this dream possible. We look forward to seeing you at the center and sharing many more moments of inspiration in the years ahead.

With heartfelt appreciation,

The Dry Canyon Community Art Center Team



# Exciting Volunteer Opportunities to Help Shape the Creative Future of our Community!!

**Are you passionate about the arts and eager to make a meaningful impact in our community?** We invite you to join one of our dedicated teams or committees and help us transform our nonprofit art center into a vibrant, thriving hub for creativity and connection. Your time and talents can help foster a welcoming space where art flourishes and everyone feels inspired.

**Have questions or want to jump in? Email Janet Hardwick at: [volunteer@drycanyonarts.org](mailto:volunteer@drycanyonarts.org).**  
**THANK YOU FOR WANTING TO HELP!**

## Art Association Needs:

### **— Lend Me Your Walls Assistant**

You'll be mentored by Brad Rafish to take the lead at one of our venues—from calls for art, to hanging masterpieces, and connecting with participating artists, you'll play a key role in our exhibitions and create meaningful relationships with the businesses which participate.

## Art Center Needs:

### **— Art Center Event Planning**

Do you love throwing parties or organizing unforgettable gatherings? Join a team to create memorable events, such as First Friday Featured Artist reception, Ladies Night Out and other downtown Redmond events along with other creative celebrations that make the art center the place to be. Network with local groups and businesses to rent the gallery space for their special events.

### **— Gallery Hosts (must be a DCAA member to participate)**

Be the welcoming face of our new gallery! Assist visitors, share your passion for art, and help with sales in a lively and inspiring environment.

### **— Public Relations Team**

Do you enjoy sparking conversations and sharing exciting news? Become an ambassador for our new community art center as part of the Development, Fundraising and PR team! Attend Redmond Chamber Friday coffee clatters and other community events to make connections and spread the word.

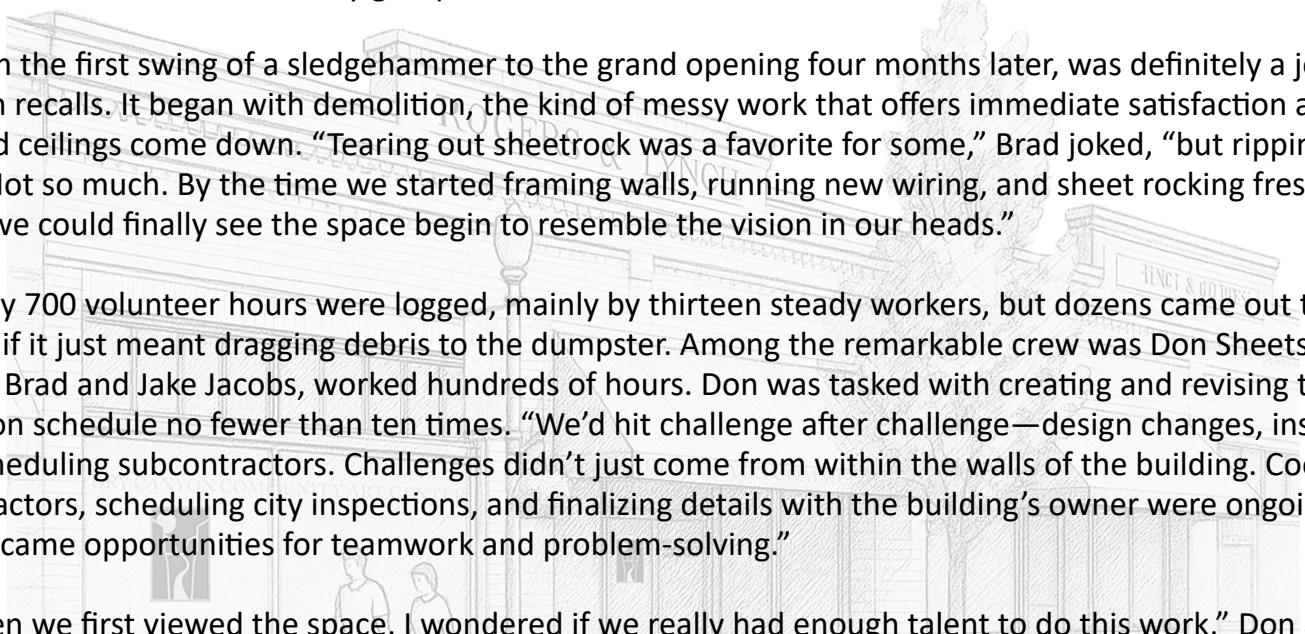
### **— Art Classes Planning and Scheduling**

Do you have a talent for organizing? Join us in coordinating art classes for both children and adults! Help recruit art instructors and collaborate with our webmaster to manage class schedules.

# From the First Swing of the Sledgehammer...

By Dina Rhoden

When the Dry Canyon Arts Association first envisioned a permanent home—a space where art could thrive, where creativity could flourish, and where the community could gather for shared expression—it seemed like a distant dream. Today, that dream stands solidly at 415 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street, embodied in a stunning new gallery and art center that has been transformed by grit, passion, and dedicated volunteers.



"From the first swing of a sledgehammer to the grand opening four months later, was definitely a journey," Brad Rafish recalls. It began with demolition, the kind of messy work that offers immediate satisfaction as walls tumble and ceilings come down. "Tearing out sheetrock was a favorite for some," Brad joked, "but ripping up old flooring? Not so much. By the time we started framing walls, running new wiring, and sheet rocking fresh contours, we could finally see the space begin to resemble the vision in our heads."

Nearly 700 volunteer hours were logged, mainly by thirteen steady workers, but dozens came out to offer help, even if it just meant dragging debris to the dumpster. Among the remarkable crew was Don Sheets, who along with Brad and Jake Jacobs, worked hundreds of hours. Don was tasked with creating and revising the construction schedule no fewer than ten times. "We'd hit challenge after challenge—design changes, inspections, trouble scheduling subcontractors. Challenges didn't just come from within the walls of the building. Coordinating with contractors, scheduling city inspections, and finalizing details with the building's owner were ongoing tests. Hurdles became opportunities for teamwork and problem-solving."

"When we first viewed the space, I wondered if we really had enough talent to do this work," Don admitted. "The walls were a mix of steel and wood. Tackling demolition, and then trying to reconfigure all the door frames? But Brad Rafish shows up and it's like where did this guy come from?! He has the energy, the experience, and the tools to manage this work! If something didn't fit, he'd come up with a workaround and get it done. Brad would always stay calm, adjust, and keep us moving forward. The amount of skill and determination he brought to this project is beyond words."

John Alward was another core volunteer, bringing expertise and ensuring that each project was done with care and precision. Brandon McCarthy stepped into the role of general contractor, which eased the process of managing professionals like electricians and plumbers. While all the volunteers contributed as they could, everyone agreed on one thing: Brad Rafish was a hero. Mel Archer, another constant on the worksite, joked: "Brad worked so many hours that Kathy wondered if her husband was sleeping here!"

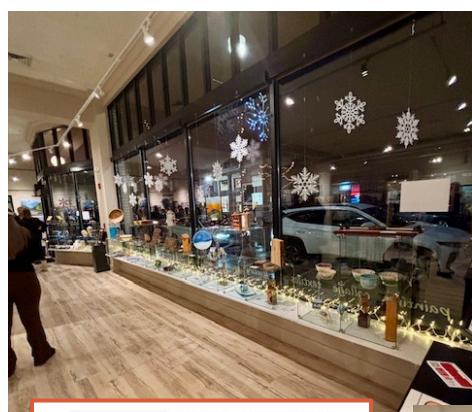
According to Don, "This place is better than we ever imagined. The materials, the layout, the finishes—it's just phenomenal. I can't say enough about the group of people who made it happen." Jake Jacobs, a core volunteer who put in many, many hours, agreed. "It's hard to recognize everyone who helped, but this was truly a community project," he said. "We believed in the vision, showed up as often as we could, and worked together to make it happen. We can all be proud of this place. The Dry Canyon Community Arts Center is now ready to host a rich array of art exhibits, educational workshops, and events."

On the evenings of December 4th and 5th, 2025, members of DCAA and other visitors celebrated in an elegant, functional space with beautiful light-wood floors, freshly painted walls full of artwork, innovative lighting and art hanging tracks, display cabinets, two classrooms with sinks, a main office, his and her rest rooms, and sound panels for a perfect acoustic environment. It was a weekend to remember and one that heralds many generations of celebrating the arts in Central Oregon.

# THE CONSTRUCTION



# THE OPENING



## FEATURED ARTIST

### Paint and The Power of Storytelling – Celebrated Artist, K.C. Snider

By Kris Horn and Dina Rhoden

In a home studio in Redmond, Oregon, surrounded by the high desert's craggy beauty, K.C. Snider brings stories to life. A prominent Western artist, illustrator, and teacher, Snider's art has focused mainly on capturing the rugged splendor and untamed spirit of the American West. "I've always been a storyteller," K.C. says. "Even when I'm creating fine art, it feels like illustration to me because every painting is a tale waiting to be told. Maybe that's why the narratives in my work always feel so vivid." Her unmistakably representational style often depicts running horses, cowboys in motion, and undisturbed wildlife, featuring buffaloes and moose.

Influenced by legends like Norman Rockwell, John Clymer, and Frank McCarthy, K.C. infuses her paintings with warmth, nostalgia, and a meticulous attention to detail. "These artists shaped how I see storytelling in art," she shares. "It's not just about the subjects—it's about capturing the spirit behind them." Rockwell was one of the first artists who helped me see how art could tell a story—that understanding, combined with my awe and love for the West, shaped much of my career."

K.C.'s artistic journey began at the early age of ten. Her parents were delighted by her talent for drawing, and later, in high school, two supportive art teachers also inspired K.C. to pursue her passion professionally. K.C. graduated with honors from The Eugene School of Art, with the idea of becoming a commercial illustrator. However, the joyless compromises she encountered in the field pushed her toward fine art.

When K.C. met her husband and started a family, she put her art career on hold for a few years. "But I couldn't stop creating," she said. "Making art for me is like breathing. Fred and I were among the first founders of DCAA, and as my husband, he supported me in every way." As a skilled carpenter, Fred matted and framed all her work during their 57 years of marriage. "He believed in what I did and made sure I always had a platform. We traveled together to Western art shows all over the U.S. and even across Hawaii."

K.C.'s talent isn't confined to gallery walls. For nearly 15 years, she was a full-time illustrator for Guardian Angel Publishing, collaborating with authors around the globe to bring over 20 children's books to life. Her whimsical illustrations have earned her numerous awards and a loyal following of admirers. One of her career highlights included working on Rick Steber's *The Last Outlaw*.

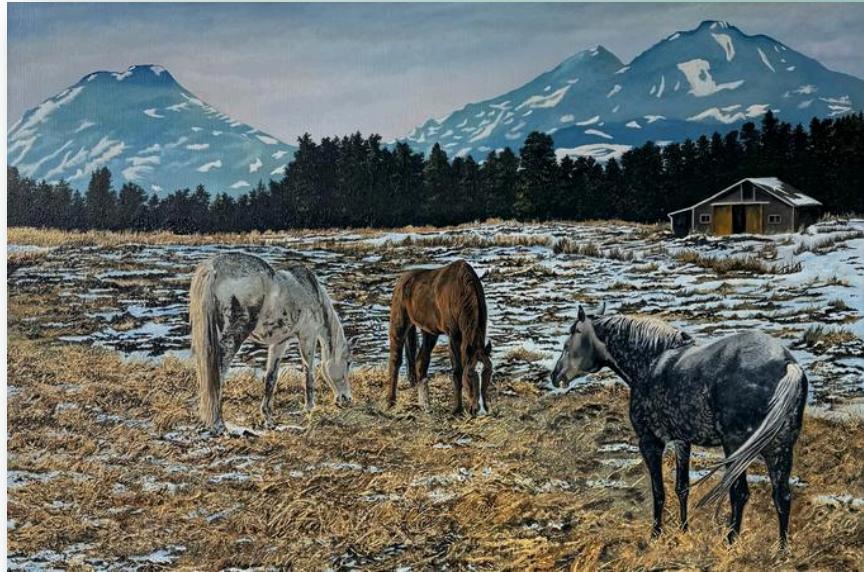
Though she's widely recognized for her Western-themed oil paintings, K.C. is a masterful chameleon with her choice of medium. She enjoys using acrylics, pastel, pencil, gouache, and watercolors. Whether it's her pastels bringing soft, rolling prairie hills to life, her oils that pull us into the grit of cowboy culture, or her watercolor book illustrations capturing a child's curiosity, K.C. says, "I love experimenting. Each medium tells a story in its own way."

These days, though, her focus has shifted back to fine art and her love of the high desert's history. Inspired by Central Oregon's Redmond Caves and surrounding state parks, she's left her mark on local communities, with several pieces displayed in city hall and other exhibitions. She attributes her staying power to discipline and passion. "I've learned to approach my art like a career, not a hobby," K.C. explains. "Meeting deadlines and being consistent are lessons I learned as a commercial artist, and they carry over even now."



K.C. 's career also included many years as a college art instructor for Lane and Linn-Benton Community Colleges. Her advice for emerging artists: "Find your tribe. Surround yourself with other creatives—it makes all the difference."

To learn more about K.C. Snider: [kcsniderart.com](http://kcsniderart.com/) <http://kcsniderart.com/> or connect with her on Facebook under "K.C. Snider."



# DCAA Coming Events: January and February 2026

## January 2026!

- ★ First Friday Art Walk: 1/2 **(4:00-7:00)** \*\*Downtown Redmond\*\*
- ★ Board Meeting: 1/8 **(2:00-5:00)** \*\*Redmond Library\*\*
- ★ Marketing Meeting: 1/15 **(1:00-3:00)** \*\*DCCAC\*\*
- ★ Member Meeting 1/27 **(5:00-6:30)** \*\*General Duffy's Annex\*\*



## February 2026

- ★ DCCAC Members Show pick-up: 2/1: **(TBA)** \*\*DCCAC\*\*
- ★ DCCAC Guilds group 1 In-Take: 2/2: **(TBA)** \*\*DCCAC\*\*
- ★ First Friday Art Walk: 2/6 **(4:00-7:00)** \*\*Downtown Redmond\*\*
- ★ Marketing Meeting: 2/12 **(1:00-3:00)** \*\*DCCAC classroom 2\*\*
- ★ DCAA Board Meeting: 2/26 **(2:00-5:00)** \*\*Library\*\*

## LEND ME YOUR WALLS!

The Lend Me Your Walls program was created to fill a need for the lack of formal art galleries in Redmond. Local businesses “loan” wall space so our members have a place to exhibit and sell their artwork. The duration of each exhibition is from three to six months depending on location.

Our current locations include **Bend Dermatology (Redmond)**; **Birdies Brow & Spa**; **Feast Food Co.**; **High Desert Vision Source**; **St. Charles Hospital**; and **Pangaea Guild Hall**.

### Upcoming for Art:

- **High Desert Vision Source** Submission deadline is January 16th

**HIGH DESERT VISION SOURCE**  
A MEMBER OF *Vision Source*

We are also looking for anyone interested in becoming a *Venue Lead*. This position is the primary contact with the venue and is responsible for submitting calls for art, printing labels, and hanging the pieces as well as maintaining communication with artists and the venue.

If interested, please contact Brad Rafish at [lendmeyourwalls@drycanyonarts.org](mailto:lendmeyourwalls@drycanyonarts.org)



# FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK



4 - 7 PM



## FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK



*Join us for an evening  
event downtown Redmond*

- DO YOU KNOW the benefits of participating in the First Friday Art walks?
- NO COST to introduce your art to the community.
- MEDIA exposure in Cascade A&E, Spokesman & more.
- LEARN what's selling & how to price your art.
- DISCOVER how to market yourself and your art in a casual, relaxed conversation.

Need more information or have questions?  
Contact our FFAW Chair, Laurel Werhane  
at [firstfriday@drycanyonarts.org](mailto:firstfriday@drycanyonarts.org) or  
541-633-6693.



## ART THERAPY

### THE ECSTATIC AS OUR COMPASS

In the ever-evolving journey of artistic creation, there lies a unique force guiding us — an inner compass powered by the ecstatic. This sensation is not merely happiness or momentary joy, but a profound, transformative experience that emerges unbidden in the midst of making art. It is that electric charge, the sudden shift, the leap of insight — manifesting as an epiphany — that propels artists beyond their own boundaries. When we encounter these moments, we find ourselves mining the process, searching for the next glimmer of revelation.

Art, at its core, is an act of discovery. When we create, we are not simply executing a plan ... we're inviting the unknown. In this fertile ground, the ecstatic arises organically — not from forced intention but from genuine engagement. A painter might feel it as the brush strokes unexpectedly transform the canvas into something alive and resonant. A musician experiences it as a new melody surfaces, unplanned but utterly right. These instances are not manufactured; they're stumbled upon, products of openness to the creative process.

The ecstatic is closely tied to those shifts and leaps we recognize as moments of revelation. Artists often describe a sense of losing +themselves — time dissolves, and the work seems to create itself. This is the zone where epiphany thrives. It is in these flashes that we feel a piece come together, an idea crystallize, or a solution presents itself as if by magic. The revelation is not always loud; sometimes it's a quiet certainty that guides our next move, a whisper of direction that we follow instinctively.

Once we have tasted the ecstatic, a true hunger forms. We continue to mine for these events, returning to the studio, the stage, or the page with the hope of another encounter. This search is not about repetition, but about 'presence' — remaining attuned to the creative process and receptive to its possibilities. It means honoring the shifts, the leaps, the surprises, and letting them shape our work. Each piece becomes both a record and a catalyst for these moments .... inspiring us to venture ever deeper.

~ *Offering by Molly Freitag*

## FOR SALE

**Attention fused glass and mosaic artists!** Selling all fused glass and supplies. Contact Laurel Werhane by text 541-633-6693 and I will send photos with prices.

**Attention ceramic artists!** Selling pottery plaster #1, permoplast clay, talc, hydrocal, powdered gum arabic, silica sand 90 mesh. Laurel Werhane by text 541-633-6693.

# THANK YOU!

## GRANTORS



## SPONSORS



Burke's Barbershop



## SUPPORTERS



HIGH DESERT VISION SOURCE  
A MEMBER OF *Vision Source*

