



Drexel H. Foundation

“Of your own personal strength you can accomplish anything”

301 A Street Vale, OR 97918 (541)473-3470 www.thedrexelfoundation.org

Winter 2019 – 2020

Engaging Young Voices In Shaping Our Community



This several part project started in the spring and ran until late fall. The first meeting was held on May 16th, we saw the film *Dryland*, reported out about how it related to our communities problems, ate free food and broke into working groups. RDI's facilitator Noel was amazing at getting everyone involved guiding the group through discussions on how to better our commu-

nity. At the end of the night fabulous ideas were generated about how to improve our community and the young people stated they felt empowered, and ready to see a change in our community. Some of the main topics that were discussed that night on how to improve our community was a better skate park, recycling access, move social media alerts directly linked to our community to tell everyone exactly what is happening and creation of a center as a safe place for the youth to hang out. All were invited to the next steps and events which would be creating films showcasing the changes our community would like to see. In July we had film creation workshops events. Although the meetings were about how to create a film to embody their concept of improving our community it also included vibrant conversations about why a younger perspective was so important. During the summer as filmmakers worked on their films, access to very young voices, such as grade school age was done in a puppet movie created at Art Camp, and a film with interview segments of the grade school youth. At art camp every camper was asked the three following questions. How can we make our community or area better? How can we make the world a better place? How would you like to make Vale better? At art camp a visual art piece was create after a suggestion and question by a one of the youth and they were invited to answer the questions and write these comments down on the art piece. In September we meet with the Vale Middle School art classes and Vale High School English classes, with a survey of questions. The questions asked were: what do you like about Vale? What do you dislike about Vale? What are some changes you want to see right now? What are some changes you want to see by 2025? This data was put into the documentary film ,the final presentation for the final meeting and also memorialized in a “word cloud” response poster. These students were also invited to put their responses on the visual art piece that was started at art camp. On Sept 21st the final event was held. Present were some of the same people, for example the Vale Mayor but many new faces were present. The RDI facilitator presented a slide show recapping what had happened in May .We viewed the 5 films from the young filmmakers. Working groups drawing from the past conversations from May, the films, the art work comments, feedback that night and the survey, began to create action plans of how to continue this work, how to involve and connect with those who can implement the changes, and how to keep a diverse young population involved in our towns growth and improvement. People left with written action plans in hand. Participants who could not attend this final segment were still engaged inquiring about “how it went?” The visual art which organically grew out of this project was installed in an outside location on Main Street. A banner created to explain the Engaging Young Voices in Shaping our Community projects significance memorializes this project and directs



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Certificate of Achievement



Vale Elementary, Vale Middle School and Four Rivers Community School K-12 students received prizes for their outstanding participation in the arts, scholastic ability, and citizenship from the Drexel H. Foundation. Each Teacher chose three recipients for the “Certificate of Achievement Award,” which included a prize of popcorn, soda,

and candy at a special free show at the Rex Theater. The special movie day presented many short films from Drexel’s Film Festival and Crash Course movies starring youth their age. A student from VMS and two students from VES and two from Four Rivers Community School were award a backpack full of new art & school supplies. The foundation is proud to work hand in hand with our local schools, to provide these awards to students.

Art Beat on Main Street

The Drexel Foundation partnered again with Spring into Wellness for this event. Tours of the Historical Vale Hotel and Grand Opera House were given to raise money for the 2019-2020 art season and restoration efforts. The tours were small and personalable and allowed youth to ask questions and really be involved and gain knowledge on culture, heritage and our community. Health vendors were there to share their knowledge with the community. Some of the vendors gave away gifts, and prizes, three bike were given to lucky individuals. A sidewalk chalk competition was held with prizes for all ages. The golden sponsor Malheur Federal Credit Union provided the stage which was open for past Drexel Talent show “superstars”.

The Opera House patio was a perfect venue for this free outdoor concert and Drexel’s public art show. Additionally several resource groups, local and high school groups were present. The partnership with Malheur Country Historical group also highlighted the local preservation efforts in our community with their great displays.



Art in the Park On Flag Day

Art In The Park On Flag Day followed Art Beat on Main Street, 41 kids and 15 adults participated. Everyone helped improve Wadleigh park. For the past 19 years, the Drexel Foundation has been giving the park playground equipment a brand new coat of paint. The participants got the chance to win a trophy for 1st place in 3 age divisions in a mini-mural painting competition. The First Place trophy winner for the ages 3-8 mural division was Willow Fuson. For the 9-12 division winning a first place trophy was Sara Jensen. The first Place trophy winner for ages 13 and up was Lia Jensen. The largest trophy went to Darin Smith who won the Grand Prize BEST OF SHOW. The donations by local volunteers made it possible to reward each child with a free lunch and free refreshments, as well as prizes for all the participants, so everyone left feeling like a winner.



Art Camp

The Annual Art Camp was kicked off on August 5th at 9:00 am. Art Camp was held at the Rex Theater Monday- Wednesday, with about 25-45 participants and 16-20 volunteers each day. This was our 23rd year holding this fun filled FREE event. On Monday the participants learned about Children's Theater, created puppets, sidewalk chalk, created mini- movies using green screen technology and created Christmas Ornaments. Tuesday was filled with Peacock Feather art, mosaic art and dance taught by Whitney Milleson. On Wednesday drawing basics were taught and everyone got to create their own unique drawing, jewelry art, paper stained glass art and musical instruments. To wrap up the week a showing of the film that was created during art camp was played on the big screen. Everyone loved being able to see themselves and their stories. A special thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers and our art campers.



Talent Show

Following Art Camp we celebrated the 23rd year of holding the Talent Show on the stage at Vale's beautifully restored 1914 Rex Theater. The show was a bit smaller this year but was a huge success, and approx. 100 people enjoyed this great FREE family fun event. There were 13 acts, some performing more than once with others in groups or other age categories. The first place winner in each age category went home with over a \$50 value in gift certificates, each with \$100.00 cash, a huge trophy and lots of cool prizes. The Second & Third place winners also received trophies & gift certificates. Everyone who performed received a big sack of prizes.



Crash Course in Filmmaking

On September 4th Drexel Foundation held the 13th annual Crash Course in Filmmaking, this year professional film maker Phill Stucker returned to help participants create a film in just 3 short hours. The 19 participants ranged in ages from 5-59. All participants got to choose how they were going to be a part of the movie, acting, sound technicians, lighting, grips, production assistants, cameramen, costume and technical crew. The new movie created was "InvinciVale" where the evil villains Payette Pirate, Brick and Road kill capture the pride of Vale Oregon, their 30 public art murals depicting historical events on the Oregon Trail. Their dastardly plot to take them to their hometown is foiled when the InvinciVale's, Flower girl, Solar man, Hacker and Heart girl stop them using their unique superpowers. With only a general plot line the youth created the details and improvised their lines in this film shot at the Drexel Foundation's free Crash Course which premiered at the Children's Film Festival. To watch "InvinciVale", go to www.thedrexelfoundation.org and click on the videos tab.



Film Festival

The Drexel H. Foundation's 13th Film Festival competition had another successful year with entries from many Western Treasure Valley artists. The competitions 1st place winner in the Youth 4-11 category sponsored by Oregon Shakespeare Festival & Morrison Center was *Courage* by Juliette Freeman. Taking 2nd place was *Rayanna's First Flight to Alaska* by Rayanna Hansen. 3rd place was *Sydney's Show* by Sydney Hansen. In the 12-14 age category Sponsored by TVCC Foundation & Bogus Basin 1st place went to *The Nerf Heist* by Tiego Newton. 2nd place went to *The Movie* by Cody Smithies. *Liar is Not Wiser* took 3rd place by Kaydra Stewart, Hannah, Rebekah, Rayanna, Abigail, Benjamin, Gideon, & Lydia Hansen. In the 15-19 category sponsored by Ontario Auto Ranch & Boise Hawks 1st place winner was *The need for a Recycling Center in Vale* by: Jennifer Zanabriga and second place was *Snowboard Battle: Andrew vs. Sam* By Sam McLaughlin. The Adults 20+ category sponsored by Idaho Power & Malheur Country Historical Society first place winner was *For Jane* by Kody Newton. Winning 2nd place was *Driving With Mom* by Noah Carlson & Sam McLaughlin. Third place was a Door 7 by Kody Newton. All participants received a prize bag full of prizes. The "Best of Show" \$100 cash prize went to *Courage*. To watch these films & past Film Festival videos visit our website.



Drexel Foundation's FREE Formal Closet

Are you still looking for the perfect dress? You can earn a FREE formal dress by getting involved with the community. Donate your time and skills to any of the Drexel Foundation's Events or Programs for that perfect dress or tux. Drexel Foundation has been gathering gently used prom, formal dresses, tuxes and other formal attire over the last several years. In exchange for pledging to volunteer your time and skills to any Drexel events. Local students can earn a homecoming, prom dress, or rent a tux for FREE. In 2019 Drexel Foundation we had a fashion show & gave away many items to individuals who pledged their time. To get free formal wear set an appointment to view the many dresses in the closet by calling please the office. Please leave a message with the date and time that works best for you.



Open House

The Drexel Foundation is holding their 24th Annual Holiday Open House for the Vale Hotel & Opera House on December 31st from 9:00am-noon at 123 Main Street.

More About The Drexel H. Foundation

Our Mission: To enrich the lives of youth & families by providing art, humanities and multi-cultural experiences and to restore & preserve historical buildings in rural Eastern Oregon.

Our Culture: Our organization moves priorities into action by providing FREE cultural opportunities, art programming, inspiring youth to embrace art and restoring historic properties for future use by the community. This will allow artistic, leadership, and economic development. "Our history is our future. The youth we have impacted have become the leaders of today".

Our Vision: We envision a Vale that values its unique heritage & pioneer roots, and invests in youth's creative expression and cultural opportunities creating pride within our diverse community and creating a sense of place & belonging.

Special Acknowledgments and Thanks

Special Thanks to The Rex Theater, and Vale Mural Society for creating great public art in Vale, Oregon. Thank you grant givers for your support: the Oregon Cultural Trust through the Malheur County Cultural Coalition Committee, Wood Family Charitable Trust Grant, Bank of America N.A. Trustee, the Fred W. Fields Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, our memorial and Gold Sponsors. The Engaging Young Voices in Shaping Our Community Project was made possible in part by a grant from the Oregon Humanities, (OH) a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities which funds OH's grant program. Please donate to help us continue to reach goals of our strategic plan, Vale Hotel Master Plan, provide free programs, and help us match our grants to impact our community through collaboration. No amount is too small.

Drexel H. Foundation receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

THANK YOU 2019 GOLD SPONSORS



How to Donate

If you would like to donate to the Drexel Foundation you can do so by making a check payable to the Drexel Foundation and mail it to 301 A Street Vale, OR 97918. Or visit our website at www.thedrexelfoundation.org and make a donation using paypal.