



Drexel H. Foundation

“Of your own personal strength you can accomplish anything”

301 A Street Vale, OR 97918

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www.thedrexelfoundation.org

Winter 2017—2018

Local Vale Elementary and Willowcreek students received prizes and a **Certificate of Achievement** for their participation in the arts, scholastic ability, and citizenship from the Drexel H. Foundation, as part of our youth and family culture & art programs. Each Vale school teacher chose three recipients for the “Certificate of Achievement Award,” which includes a prize of free popcorn, soda, and candy treat at a special free show at the Rex Theater. The special movie day presented many short films from Drexel Foundations Children’s Film Festival movies. Pictured are two of the lucky award winners, 1st grader Kayci Shira and David Atkinson in Kindergarten, who won a backpack full of new art & school supplies.. The foundation is proud to work hand in hand with our local schools grades K-6th, to provide these awards to students.



The Drexel Foundation kicked off the first of its Free summer art programs with **Art in the Park on Flag Day**. 14 kids and 11 adults joined Drexel H. Foundations president Sandi Jean Fuson and other volunteers to give Wadleighs playground equipment a new coat of paint. In this events 17 years, not only did the park playground equipment get 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 winners: for the ages 4-5 was Ruby Shaffer, the 6-10 division was Rocco Shaffer, the 11 and up age category first place went to Cynthia Clason. The Largest trophy went to Dusty Muncey who won the overall grand prize of BEST OF SHOW. The participants were very created patriotic, abstract and scenery murals. All enjoyed their community service, games, food, and the event’s awards & prizes.



The Annual Art Camp was kicked off on August 7th at 9:00 am. Art Camp was held at the Rex Theater Monday- Wednesday. This was our 21st year holding this fun filled FREE event. On Monday the participants learned about Children’s Theater, created puppets, sidewalk chalk, and magnet art. Tuesday was filled with origami, collage art and creating treasure chests, yo yo, and musical instruments to take home. On Wednesday VHS dancers Kayla Flint and TeiLee Hill came and taught the children a dance that they performed later in the week at the Talent Show. Followed by bench designing, and drawing for animation. All the kids got to see their stories on the big screen at the end of the day. A special Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers.

Check out our website www.thedrexelfoundation.org to see the 2017 films created for the Children’s Film Festival and the 2017 Crash course film created in a day “THE GREAT SOLAR ECLIPSE”

Following Art Camp we celebrated the **21st year of holding the Talent Show** on the stage at Vale’s beautifully restored 1914 Rex Theater. The show was a huge success, and approx. 170 people enjoyed this great FREE family fun event . There were 37 individual contestants, some performing more than once with others in groups or other age categories. The first place winner in each age category went with over a \$50 value in addition

to gift certificates, each with \$100.00 cash, a huge trophy and lots of cool prizes.

The Second &

Third place

winners also

received tro-

phies & gift

certificates.

Everyone who

performed

received a big

sack of prizes.



Talent show winners left to right: Sandi Jean Fuson (president of Drexel Foundation) Taven, Cynder, Giana Rojas, Jae Rojas, Darin Smith, Tydie Climber, Abby Sweetland, Libby Draper, Teilee Hill, Kayla Flint, Flavia & Morgan Bruton, Nate Harlan, Katie Rindlisbacher, Santana Braniff & Dusty Rose.

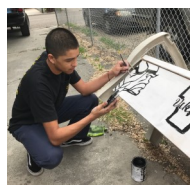
To tie art & restoration together a fundraising event called **“Art Beat before the Solar Eclipse”** was held in August! Tours of the Historical Vale Hotel and Grand Opera House were given to locals to raise money for the 2018 art season and restoration efforts. The golden sponsor Malheur Federal Credit Union stage was open for Drexel’s past talent show super stars . Performing were Jessi Anne, Libby Draper, Japheth Carlson, Kayla Flint, Teilee Hill, Santana Braniff, Joe Fuson, Brent Foster, The Bruton Sisters and Mc Soul Gypsy J. A Sidewalk Chalk competition was held and the winner Sadie Kulm received a basket full of art supplies donated by sponsor Malheur Drug. Local vendors where present with make-up, jewelry and the Malheur Country Historical Society sharing their knowledge. It was a fulfilled community gathering listening to all the wonderful talent we have locally, learning about the historical buildings and visiting with the vendors.



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.

The Oregon Arts Commission granted the Drexel Foundation an **Art Builds Community Grant**, for their 2nd **Public Art Project** involving youth leaders. The Drexel Foundation partnered with the Vale High School Art Club, and the Ontario Boxing Club. The Drexel Foundation bought and built 10 benches,. Volunteer youth were involved from the beginning of this project, to empower these youth in solving a need to improve the city streetscape.

Three of the benches were designed by Vale High School Art Club where instructor Kacie Shaffer guided the students painting on the benches. Eddie Melendrez and his Boxing Club designed three benches. Two of the benches were painted during August Art Camp, and one of the benches was designed at Art in the Park on Flag Day. The final bench was designed by College students. These benches will be placed at their forever spots in the spring once the winter weather is gone. The artists voted on where the benches would be of best use. Another opportunity for the community to vote on where these benches should be placed will be available at the Open House on 12-31-17.





Severe Winter Weather

There was a "Severe Winter Weather Tragedy" that hit our community. Due to enormous amounts of snow during Dec. 2016 and January 2017 many structures began collapsing in our area. In Vale we lost the Odd Fellows building, Aka the "Slipper" which collapsed into a pile of rubble from the heavy snow load.

(Devastation of the Slipper)

The Drexel Foundation's 20 year commitment of restoration and upgrades of installing engineered webs to the Opera House roof system, roof repairs, and replacement of a failed beam in the hotel paid off. It gave both these buildings strength during the time the heavy snowfall was taking so many structures in our region. In early life of Vale the Drexel Hotel had the cities water tower on the top of the roof. The hotels roof was stronger than most buildings in Vale. Inside the roofing system is a bridge truss, which supported the weight of the Cities water tower years ago. But the work of removing the snow was urgent and vital. 39,000 cubic feet of snow was removed from the Hotel and Opera House. Thank you to those who worked so hard at accomplishing this urgent and vital task of snow removal.



Restoration Milestones

During the 2017 year great headway continued in the restoration efforts on the Vale Hotel and Grand Opera House. The Grand Opera House once again proved itself to be a great outside Venue for music and Art events during the Art Beat the Solar Eclipse Event and the Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Music from MFCU stage bounced off the buildings with great acoustic effect and outside seating provided a wonderful summer concert location.

Tremendous headway took place during 2017 with continued Structural Stabilization to the Vale Hotel by brick & mortar repair to the NW exterior rear wing. The West exterior top window archway, and other segments of loose and missing brick were replaced. The entire wall was tuck pointed. The joints mortar were checked and unsound mortar removed and cut out to appropriate depth; the joints repointed with new mortar to match the existing historical formula of mortar. The wall was cleaned of the organic growth and areas of efflorescence washed off. While the scaffolding was up volunteers also performed window painting and gutter placement at the North & South West roof line.



Open House

The Drexel H. Foundation is holding their 23rd Annual Holiday Open House for the Vale Hotel & Grand Opera House on December 31st from 9:00am - noon at 123 Main Street. Beginning in 1994, this annual event was created because both buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office had the Drexel Foundation provide an annual public tour of these special buildings located on the authentic Oregon Trail. There will be tours of the buildings led by Sandjean Fuson & Mike McLaughlin. Hot drinks, and refreshments will be available. We encourage people to come visit and enjoy viewing the art created for the public art project by the Vale High School 2017 artists.

Are You Still Looking For That Perfect Dress?

Do you want to save money?

Get involved with the community and get a FREE dress. Donate your time and skills to any of the Drexel Foundation's Events or Programs for that perfect dress. Drexel Foundation has been gathering gently used prom dresses, formal dress and other formal attire over the last several years. In exchange for pledging to volunteer their time and skills to any Drexel events, local students can earn a prom dress, rent a tux, or formal evening wear for FREE. There shall be a viewing of the many dresses in the closet, by appointment only.



Measurable Outcomes and

Impact for our Community Through Collaboration

Each year our mission is to "enrich the lives of youth and families by providing art, humanities & multi-cultural experiences and to restore historical buildings for an Art Center". This is accomplished through partnerships and collaboration. Some of our partnerships this year are listed:

- Emerging Leaders Youth Conference
- Vale Chamber of Commerce—Easter egg hunt and Halloween Events
- Evalcuree
- Oregon Cultural Trust
- Oregon Arts Commission
- Oregon Media Production Assn
- Oregon Historic Preservation- SHPO
- Malheur Country Historic Society
- Vale High School Student Body
 - Participation in Arts Build Community Grant
 - Homecoming Princess Fundraising and donation
 - Monumental number of volunteers
 - VHS Cheerleaders- face painting at Art Beat before the Solar Eclipse
- Restore Oregon
- Class of 1961

THANK YOU!!!



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 H. Foundation and mailing it to 301 A Street Vale, OR 97918. Or visit our website at www.thedrexelfoundation.org and make a donation using paypal.

GRANT NEWS: Special Acknowledgment and thanks to our grant givers: Drexel 2016-2017 programs were supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust and a grant from a James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation. The 2017 art programs were supported in part through The Oregon Arts Commission Small Arts Program and the Art Builds Community grants, with advertisement thru OMPA, and Philanthropy by the 2017-2018 Vale High School Students. The 2016-2017 Restoration work was supported in part from SHPO thru an Oregon Preserving Oregon Grant from Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department programs funded by Oregon Lottery funds. Please donate & help us match our grants. Restore Oregon after careful consideration of numerous applications, chose Vale's (Drexel) Hotel for it listing of 2017 & 2018 "Oregon's Most Endangered Places". Restore Oregon works hand in hand with sites earning the "Oregon's Most Endangered Places" designation to bring together rehabilitation expertise, resources, grants, and local support to bring significant and irreplaceable sites back to life in their communities and to be passed forward to future generations. 2018 grants for continued Restoration from the Pacific Northwest fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Kinsman Foundation need your donation for the local match. No amount is too small. Please donate for a program or for general operating support. Help us match the grant from the Fred W. Fields of the Oregon Community Foundation for 2018.