



# Drexel H. Foundation

“Of your own personal strength you can accomplish anything”

301 A Street Vale, OR 97918 (541)473-3470 [www.thedrexelfoundation.org](http://www.thedrexelfoundation.org)

Winter 2024

## T-Shirt Design Contest



Our first event of the year was kicked off by our T-shirt Design Contest. The goal for this project was to encourage the community to create a design for a T-shirt that spreads positivity to all ages! This T-shirt design contest was FREE to enter, open to all ages, and open to anyone from anywhere. All designs needed to somehow incorporate the mantra of the foundation “You are Important! Tu Importas!”. We had over 110 entries this year. We had artist from Jordan Valley, Burns, Vale, Ontario, Nyssa & Eugene. Everyone who entered got a sack full of prizes. 4-11: (1st place Lidia, 2nd place Ezra, 3rd place Ernesto). 12-14: (1st place Cole, 2nd place Kira, 3rd place Lilika). 15-19: (1st place Fatina, 2nd place Emily P, 3rd place Martha). 20+: (1st place Isabel, 2nd place Batel, 3rd place David). THE BEST OF SHOW winning \$100 was Giana!

## The Yard Art Competition



On Earth Day we announced the winners of our Yard Art Competition! Taking Best of Show and winning their choice of a \$250 TVCC scholarship or \$100 cash is Isabel. In the 4-11 age category, Sophia clinched first place, while Ane secured the top spot in the 12-14 age category, and Terry Anne

locked in the victory in the adult category. It's inspiring to see so many individuals contributing to recycling, restoration, and reuse efforts. The Best of Show contestant truly embodies positivity with their message, "Let the bad things go and kindness grow." Every participant received prizes!

## Living An American Dream

The Drexel H. Foundation was very excited to help Clare McKay premiere her documentary film *Living an American Dream* at the Rex Theater in 2023. Showings of film continued into 2024. The Drexel H. Foundation traveled with Clare to Alger Theater in Lakeview, OR & Jordan Valley, OR during the Big Loop Rodeo. The Jordan Valley even also show cased the rural artists talent Randi Johnson with cowboy poetry & Anna Pozzi with a few beautiful songs. Following the film there was Q&A with Clare some great questions were asked. We all found out just how much hard work and dedication goes into creating a film. We would like to give a big shout out to the Creative Heights Initiative of the Oregon Community Foundation grant that helped make this possible. Currently Clare is making her second film *Here's to the Girls*. Keep a look out in 2025 for more information and ways you can help support Clare and her Filmmaking.



## Bring them to Vale



Watch the two new tourism videos created with cultural partners during 2024 to create cultural tourism opportunities in our area & celebrate our Treasure Valley Cultural Treasures. Check out Drexel's Ad

in Eastern Oregon Visitors Guide bringing attention to the Grand Opera House's free amenities: electric vehicle charging station, heritage displays, and free bike repair station.



## Art in The Park on Flag Day



Art in the Park was a huge success thanks to our incredible community! A big shoutout to everyone who participated – your talent truly shines through the beautiful murals created! Congratulations to those who won top honors and trophies! Iliana won 1st place for the 7–10-year-old group, Lydia won 1st for the 11–12-year-old group, Zettie took 1st in the 13–14-year-old girls age group, and Jaxton won first place for the 13–14-year-old boys! Trent & Rivay won free refurbished bikes! A huge thank you to our amazing partners for making Art in the Park a fantastic success! We were thrilled to have Elderberry Lane, MCCDC, and Idaho Power join us at the event. Elderberry Lane brought adorable ponies for participants to paint, adding a delightful touch before the ponies headed to a local nursing home. Sylvia and Kassie from MCCDC kept everyone energized with fun games. Plus, a big shoutout to Natasha Tolly from Idaho Power for educating us about electric vehicles! We are immensely grateful for the support and enthusiasm of all our partners. You make events like this possible!



## August Annual Art Camp & Talent Show



Day one of Art Camp was a huge success! Campers learned techniques to project their voices while on stage, made drums, and juggling sticks among various other activities! Day two of Camp was a fantastic one! Campers were able to learn part of the dance to the song "Thriller" by Michael Jackson, made a poster thanking our amazing sponsors, made puppets and starred in their own puppet movie. We brought their creations to life with a Puppet Show on the big screen at the theater! To watch the incredible creativity that was filmed at Art Camp visit our website! To finish out the day campers got to paint some ponies. Thank you to @campelderberry for bringing the wonderful ponies! Day three art camp participants made birdhouses for their yards, paper fans & flowers. To finish the fun filled week is when the puppet show was shown on the big screen.

The **Annual Talent Show** was on August 8th. The show made many laugh and smile, with the first place winner in each age category going home with \$100.00 cash, a huge trophy and lots of cool prizes. Everyone who performed received a big sack of prizes. Ages 4 to 11 was 1st was Tegan Hopkins, 2nd Amilia Watt & 3rd Josiah Watt. In the 12 to 14 age group 1st Tayyler Anderson, 2nd Clair Gross & 3rd Giana Rojas. For ages 15 to 19 1st Ray Ray Miller, 2nd Cady Tolman & 3rd Brianna Bodreau. The adult category winner was Santana Bayes, 2nd Dusty Rose & 3rd Camille Hollinger.



## 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. Or visit our website at [www.thedrexelfoundation.org](http://www.thedrexelfoundation.org). Please consider donating today to our capital campaign for ADA bathrooms and HVAC unit in the Grand Opera House to finish the Art Center enabling us to have year round programing.





### Children's 19th Annual Film Festival

Do you remember the 21st night of September? We do! It was the night we got to see the outstanding talents of filmmakers at our 19th annual Children's Film Festival! We thoroughly enjoyed all of the films entered, "For Kids, By Kids and with Kids in Mind" presented at Vale's Rex Theater this year. First place-winners in each age category received \$50 in gift certificates, and all who entered a film received a bag full of prizes. 4-11 category: first, "The Classroom" by Jordan Gore / Rosehill Montessori. 12-14 category: first, "Madness of the Multiverse" by Jaxon Hansen; second place "Corn Chopping" Troy Johnson; third place "Vale" by Clair Gross. For ages 15-19: Gracie W. earned first with "Two Dollars"; second place "Where Nightmares Reign" by RayRay Miller. The Adults 20+ division had a tie for first with "Same & Dukes Big Adventure" by Tom Taylor & "All We Didn't Do: Mary Hallock Foote" by Rochelle Smith; second place and another tie with "Break" by Sam McLaughlin & "Hobbyist Guide for Recreational Drone" by Griff Hansen; third place was "flat Isa" by Isabel Lastiri. "Best of Show" is selected from all ages groups and reflects the most emotionally moving & memorable of all entries. This year Best of Show honors, went to "Sam & Dukes Big Adventure" taking home the \$100 cash prize & trophy.

### Crash Course in Film-making

On Sept 6th youth & adult participants created the Crash Course movie "The Quest to Reclaim the Golden Spike" in front of a green screen and on location in Vale. The story created that night by the entire cast and crew in just two hours was about a quest to reclaim the Golden Spike and taking it back to Vale. Starring: Jaxen Hansen, Kai Dawe, Becky Moore, Angela Smith, Shannon Brewington, Anna Dawe, Ella Dawe, Aden Dawe, Ian Moore, Cielco Chavez, Liam Lombard, Abbi Christian, Mia Champagne, Sophia Pineda, Sophideia Ernest & Patrick Trowel. Clapboard: Kaden Barlow & Owen Barlow. Sound Techs: Athanasius Armstrong & Noah Carlson. Grips Andrew McLaughlin, Isabel Lastiti, Mike McLaughlin, Griff Hansen, Cady Tolman & Jesse Trotter. Director: Sandijejan Fuson. Assistant Directors: Mike McLaughlin, Sam McLaughlin & Griff Hansen. Camera Operators: Sam McLaughlin, Kelsey Tolman & Patrick Trowel. A special thank you to our Video Editor: Sam Mac Studios.



### Art Beat On Main Street Song Writing Contest



New this year we had a Song Writing Contest. Artist submitted original songs that contained positive messages. All songs that were entered were played and the winners were announced at

Art Beat on Main Street. We had several participants that were able to attend in person and performed their song. 12-14 category: 1st place Taylor Anderson with her song "Family"; 2nd place Claire Gross "Vale". 15-19 category: 1st place "No Not Me" by Gretta Chamberlain. 20+ category: 1st place "Pirate's Life" by Jacob Fuson; Camille Hollinger with her song "Angels Paint Rainbows". Best of Show winning a TVCC Scholarship was Jordan Lewis Lee with his song "The Troubador". Alongside these amazing winners, we enjoyed performances from past Talent Show stars and awarded bicycles to Briana, Claire, and Brinley! Guests also got a sneak peek inside the historic Grand Opera House during Art Beat on Main Street! During 2025 watch for our Spring songwriting crash course with professional artists to help young songwriters creativity blossom.



### Who has been a lighthouse in your life?

2024 George Fuson memorial scholarship lighthouse essay winner was Haylee Cleaver. This college scholarship is open to high school seniors. Deadline March 23rd check our website for more details.



### Colossal Cinematic Showcase

Recognizing the exceptional filmmakers from our September 2023, Free Crash Course in Filmmaking event, who have earned the esteemed Laurel Award at the Colossal Cinematic Showcase. Our Film "Charging Through Time" was shown at the Showcase in May! Sandijejan, Mike, Cady and Kelsey all enjoyed a night at Colossal Cinematic Showcase. Colossal Cinematic Showcase had another showing in November and a crew of Drexel H. Foundations Staff & volunteers got to enjoy another fun filled night of collaborating with other filmmakers. We look forward to attending again in 2025.

### Oregon Bottle Drop & Formal Closet

April & November were busy months, we participated in another blue bag fundraiser with @oregonbottledrop. We want to thank Oregon Bottle Drop & local recyclers once again for helping Drexel Foundation raise funds during the year, we helped save so many bottles, plastic, & cans from the land fill. So, save your empties. We can pick up your cans & bottles anytime or you can drop them off at the Opera House. You can also help by donating online with funds from your green bag account. Another way you can help and you can earn a FREE formal dress or tux rental by getting involved with the community. Or donate five bags of bottles to our bottle drive and you can get a that perfect dress or tux for your next upcoming special even. Call 541-473-3470 to find out more information.



### Open House

Don't miss the Drexel Foundation is holding their Annual Holiday Open House for the Vale Hotel & Opera House on December 31st from 10:00am-noon at 147 Main Street.

### Thank You!!!

We would like to give a big shoutout to our great staff & board for helping make each event and project successful. We would also like to give a big shout out to all of our other wonderful volunteers, sponsors and grant givers.



## THANK YOU 2024 SPONSORS