Dear Patrons, Supporters, Friends, and Community members.

Welcome to CCA’s latest Newsletter! We hope it helps keep you updated on our latest news and provide you with opportunities to visit the center and say hello. On September 21st, I started as the new Interim Executive Director at Columbia Center for the Arts. Since then, we have had a gallery opening and a first live theatre performance since the pandemic closed venues more than a year ago.

There have been exciting moments as we re-learn what it means to gather together again. As I continue to interact with new challenges and opportunities to be creative, learn from our beloved staff, board, and committee members, there is a constant reflection on the compassion we can offer one another during these times, and keep believing in the power of the arts.

I encourage you to take the time to read through our upcoming events for the next couple of weeks and visit us at the center.

With deep gratitude for all you have done for the Columbia Center for the Arts.

Sincerely,

Yasmin Acosta-Myers
Interim Executive Director
Ways to Support:

Volunteers Needed

Our team includes many highly-valued volunteers who support the Columbia Center for the Arts in a variety of ways. Volunteering for the arts is a wonderful way to expand your social horizons, learn new skills, share your breadth of experience, and give back to the community.

If you are interested in supporting your community arts center, please join us as we build CCA back up to the thriving arts scene we know and love, please submit the online Volunteer Form. CCA Volunteer Opportunities include (descriptions on our website): House Manager, Usher, Event Support, Art Class Instructional Aide.

CCA is also currently searching for new community members to join our Board of Directors. If you are enthusiastic about bringing art to the communities of the Columbia River Gorge, enjoy interacting with others by advocating for the arts, or simply enjoy fundraising and supporting nonprofits, we'd love to connect with you! Apply for Board Membership Here.

On Social Media

Help CCA with our social media presence and outreach by re-sharing our posts. Much like word of mouth, re-sharing our posts both from Instagram and Facebook creates more visibility on what’s going on in the gallery and with upcoming live events, educational opportunities at the center, as well as resources for artists.

Ways you can help promote us on social media:

1. You can "like" both the FB pages and our Instagram page
2. Turn the notifications to “all” on our Facebook pages.
3. You could take a few seconds per day and just "like" or "love" the daily posts and leave a comment on them. Something simple like "awesome!" or "thanks for posting!" is great.
4. Tag your friends in our posts.
5. You would share the FB posts and Instagram posts to your page or stories as regularly as you feel comfortable.

Thank you for all your help!

COLUMBIA CENTER for the ARTS
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Entryway Gallery: Silent Auction  
November 5th - December 17th, 2021

CCA is so excited to offer an end-of-year Silent Auction to support the arts! Auction and sale items will be displayed in the Entryway Gallery for attendees to assess, place bids on, and purchase. Items are from CCA's donated inventory as well as participating local artists. The auction will run November 5th - December 17th, 2021, so come in and place your bids!

In the Gallery:

November Gallery Exhibit: Don’t Quit Your Day Job
Opening reception on Friday, November 5th from 5-7pm.
Exhibition November 5-26, 2021

What does it mean to be an artist who is also a worker? How does a worker find ways to develop their art while also keeping food on the table and a roof over their head? How does a person manage the compulsion to create art within the context of the day job workday? And what does that do to the artist, and to the art? This split existence can often be a painful experience, but sometimes a rewarding one and a source of the energy behind an artist's work.

For this show, Columbia Center for the Arts is seeking to showcase the art and the stories of artists with day jobs, or other daily concerns that provide the resources needed to survive – food, shelter, healthcare, transportation. We hope to present an immersive experience of what it is to make art, to create artistic expression, when sales of artworks are not the artist's sole source of income.
Live music happening at the opening from 5-7pm. Local musicians Dianna Allen on the piano and Donna Reuter on the fiddle will be entertaining guests for the evening.

This show will be curated by local artist and CCA Board Member, Genevieve Scholl. Click here for more information.

**Last Week to see Fever Dream: Abstract Interpretations of Dreamscapes and Nightmares**

Fever Dream is inspired by the artists’ abstract interpretations of their personal dreamscapes and nightmares. From surreal landscapes to the things that lurk in the shadows of the mind, Fever Dream is a roller coaster ride through lunacy and the macabre.

This show was curated by Tom Lehmann of Blue Collar Agency in Hood River Oregon.
Call to Artists: Holiday Small Works Market, Submissions accepted until November 1st
Exhibition December 3rd – January 7th, 2021

Columbia Center for the Arts is excited to present our annual Holiday Small Works Market!

Our gallery and retail space will be full of smaller works by local and regional artists. From ornaments and holiday cards, to original paintings, ceramics, limited edition prints, jewelry, and wearable items – we have everyone on your list covered. Artists are encouraged to make affordable works smaller in scale. (Exceptions apply!) Please click [here](#) to apply.

**CCA Exhibitions are Supported by Cathedral Ridge Winery**

Cathedral Ridge will be having an opening reception for artists Cindy Ives and Sally Bills Bailey on Wednesday October 27th 4:30-6pm. Cathedral Ridge is providing light appetizers and will serve a selection of wines that can be purchased plus sparkling water.

$10 includes a glass of wine & appetizers.

Don’t forget to go see Nancy Houfek Brown’s painting exhibition at Sotheby’s International Realty in downtown Hood River this month through December.
In the Theatre:

Día de los Muertos Ofrenda (Day of the Dead Altar): Community Invitation

*Creating a bit of sacredness*

**November 2 - 6**

Columbia Center for the Arts is honoring Day of the Dead this year by offering our Theatre space (November 2-6) for an altar (Ofrenda) as a way to remember family members and friends who are no longer with us. As well as, honoring the grief and loss our community is experiencing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family members can honor their deceased with Ofrendas, or offerings, which may consist of photographs, bread, other foods, flowers, toys, and other symbolic offerings. Altars may contain all hand-made items or ones that have been purchased.

The celebration is traditionally held on November 1 (All Saints’ Day, which celebrates children who have died) and November 2 (All Souls’ Day, which celebrates adults). Ofrendas which can consist of several levels, depending on space – are a place of gathering and are traditionally erected in homes, cemeteries or community spaces, like Columbia Center for the Arts. A component of the celebration is the telling of stories to honor the history and life of the person(s) you are honoring.

In partnership with The History Museum of Hood River County, we will honor the rich history of the Hood River area, with a Day of the Dead Celebration on Saturday, November 6. The celebration includes the erection of a community Ofrenda at Columbia
Center for the Arts, and a screening of The History Museum of Hood River County’s 11th production Cemetery Tales.

The Ofrenda will be open to the public to honor their loved ones who have passed and grieve the impacts of the pandemic. **CCA will install the Ofrenda on Oct 31 and leave it open for public offerings from November 2 through November 6.** Traditional offerings include orange marigolds, painted skulls, flickering candles (battery tea lights please), baked goods, salt, colorful paper cutouts, and photographs of family and friends who have passed. In true CCA creative fashion, we encourage community members to be creative and bring items that hold meaning to who they are honoring. And on November 6th, the celebration will close with the screening of Cemetery Tales. Cemetery Tales is a professional video production that is historical storytelling, through performance, of historical and influential members of Hood River’s history. Cemetery Tales honors the community’s history through storytelling, a component of The Day of the Dead celebration.

We hope you will join the Columbia Center for the Arts and The History Museum of Hood River County in celebrating Dia de Los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) and participate in this celebration!

**Should this celebration inspire you or your business to sponsor the installation of the Ofrenda and performance screening, please email director@columbiaarts.org.**

**Cemetery Tales Screening and Talkback at CCA**
**Saturday, November 6 at 7:30pm**

**Talkback to include director/producer Joe Garoutte, writer/producer Michael Friend and actors Jim Yue, Elisa Solis, Kathy Williams, Ann Harris and Tom Burns.**
Cemetery Tales is a fundraiser for the Hood River County Heritage Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that runs The History Museum of Hood River County. Proceeds from this screening will be shared between the History Museum and Columbia Center for the Arts.

Cemetery Tales, the popular annual theatrical performance about influential members of our community from the past, has been created as a professional video production this year. This is the 11th production of Cemetery Tales, an event created by The History Museum of Hood River County featuring local actors. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the production of Cemetery Tales in 2020 and has shifted this year’s production to a virtual format.

The individuals portrayed this year represent the diversity of those who have lived in Hood River County, including early white settlers in the 1850s; the first Black family to live in Hood River in the 1870s; a Japanese-American man born in Parkdale but affected by internment and racism during and after WWII; and one of the first Mexican-American families to settle here in the late 1960s who opened the beloved Jose's Taco House.

Director/ producer Joe Garoutte reflected on the project: “This year’s video rendition of Cemetery Tales strives to connect the stories and struggles of our historical residents, but moreover I hope to illuminate how similar we all are at our cores, at a human level. We see and experience so much division right now, and in so many ways it is not new. We need to recognize that. If at every opportunity we have conversations about our similarities instead of our differences, about our common goals instead of our selfish interests, and if we also recognize that helping out and standing up for our fellow humans is crucial to our healthy survival, we may someday unite more completely as a species.

Learn more and purchase tickets here.

Success of the First Live Theatre Performance, Constellations
Success for CCA's first live performance since the pandemic closed venues more than a year ago. We are grateful for those who joined us as we return to live theatre!

Virtual Art Education & Lecture Opportunities:

Columbia Center for the Arts in partnership with Arts in Education of the Gorge

Through a partnership with Arts in Education of the Gorge we are bringing K-12 arts education to you! Stop by and pick up a free art kit for K-5 students with Vimeo links to guided art lessons with AIEG teaching artist, Chloë Hight. Art kit Supplies are limited.

Click HERE to visit Vimeo art lesson videos on CCA’s website!

www.gorgeartsined.org | Instagram | Facebook

Sense of Place Lecture Series
Connecting people through place and storytelling

October, November, and December lectures are online via Zoom.
Due to the current COVID health regulations Sense of Place (SOP) is going to stream their series online for the remainder of the year (2021) instead of using CCA's Theater. We hope to be back in the theater with Sense of Place in 2022.

As with last season, all the lectures will be recorded and then offered online for free (this includes any lectures that they are able to have live). Sense of Place will also have additional audio/video content that may be of interest to our patrons.

[Click HERE](#) to visit Sense of Place Homepage & How to Register for Lectures!

CCA offerings made possible by generous support from:

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