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Sitka Center for Art and Ecology e-Newsletter

June 2010 Vol 7, Issue 10

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>> Director's Notes



As you take the picturesque drive up Highway 101, savoring the stunning vistas and viewpoints along the Oregon coast, you might see our blue highway signs just north of Lincoln City. You'll make the tight turn onto Three Rocks Road and then meander along the estuary until you reach the signs that direct you to our diminutive cluster of buildings that look out at the ocean.

Many first time visitors express their excitement at discovering Sitka with a barrage of questions. Who are you guys? How long have you been here? What do you do? Where do you get your funding? For a place like this to exist, do you get money from

foundations? "Good questions!" we reply. And then we share our story.

The Sitka Center is a 40-year-old non-profit with an educational purpose teaching people about art and ecological systems. **We support artists!** We have an annual budget of just over \$520,000 a year. And here is a question back at you: How much of that funding would you expect to come from foundations? Over three-quarters? Half? Maybe a solid 25%?

Before I share the answer with you, let's consider an equally important question, "What does Sitka do with that money?" This year we will host over 90 workshops with more than 1000 students. We'll give 25 artists a chance to work for an extended time as resident artists. We'll host an engaging art show in Portland with 500 pieces of art from 120 Northwest Artists.

And that money allows amazing things to happen. It gives a grandmother a chance to rediscover long lost talents in painting a landscape. It gives children in Ocean Lake Elementary School a chance to work with practicing artists to create artwork that is on permanent display near their playground in Regatta Park. It gives a young writer the space to work on her novel about the first woman to map the ocean floor. It gives an 8-year-old and a 59-year-old the side-by-side chance to explore intertidal zones and learn about ocean habitats from the perspective of an artist and a biologist. It gives a beginning sculptor the chance to develop her craft into a life changing career.

When I recently visited Patricia Wheeler's "Painting Archeology" class, I was struck by a passionate energy among the students in our studio. The students (many in their 50's and 60's) were joyful, playful, and celebrating life. They laughed, they told stories, they created amazing artwork that spoke to social issues they care about. **Sitka is creating opportunities for people to discover optimism, beauty, and freshness.** Just what our world needs!

So now the answer to the question: **How much funding comes from foundations?**

In actuality, this year, Sitka expects to receive 4% of its funding from foundations. Nearly all of our operational income, the money that keeps the lights on and the doors open, the money that pays for our dedicated staff, the money that pays for our exceptional instructors, it almost all comes from individuals. It comes from you!

If you want to invest in hope and creativity, I am convinced there is no better place than the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology. We are making the world brighter, one artist, one naturalist, one writer and one musician at a time.

At this point our visitor pulls out a checkbook and writes a donation check in accordance with his/her excitement about Sitka's purpose. And that's how it could work in an idealized

world.

In reality we need financial support from you, the person who knows us and has experienced our impact. If you like what we are doing, nothing says love like a donation check that you have written. And we'll keep delivering all the yummy goodness you have come to expect from this delicious organization.

See you soon,
Eric

>> Whimsical Bird Art

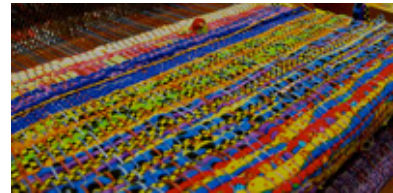


Transform found objects, such as driftwood, into evocative bird forms. Unleash your imagination and paint them wild colors or paint them natural colors, the choice is all yours as you learn to compose these whimsical art pieces. You'll never see driftwood the same again!

[Bird Sculptures From Found Wood](#) with Keaney Rathbun
July 10-11

>> Ecological Weaving

Combine the joy of weaving with sustainable ecological principles to create one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Found objects and unraveled clothing will be woven on homemade looms in this workshop. You'll get to select your own project from several options.



[Ecological Weaving: Treading Lightly On The Earth](#) with
Kate Boyes July 10-11

>> Nature Essays



Hone your skills for writing personal and expository essays specifically for publication in environmentally-themed magazines and newspapers. Complete a final draft and then learn to pitch and sell photos to go along with your essays.

[Writing and Selling Your Nature Essays](#) with Melissa Hart,
July 19-20

>> Basketry

Get your hands on beautiful natural materials and learn to weave them into several varieties of baskets and a bark pouch. You'll work with red cedar, Alaskan yellow cedar, willow bark, and more.



[Introduction to Northwest Bark Basketry](#) with Donna Sakamoto Crispin,
July 20-22



>> Wild Art/Wild Yoga



A delightful day of art-making and yoga awaits you. Experience stretching your body and mind through movement, breathing, meditation, and creative mark-making in the spacious Boyden Studio, the Sculpture Garden, and the grassy area in front of Sitka. This day is truly a treat for your senses.

[Wild Yoga/Wild Art](#) with Andie Thrams, July 24

>> Sitka Turns 40!

It brings us great pleasure to invite you to our 40th Year Celebration.

August 28th 9 am to 7 pm (and beyond)

Celebrate the birth of this creative place, on the coast, in a gathering of artists, residents, instructors, old and new friends of Sitka Center. We welcome all who are interested in the Sitka Center and look forward to showing you around.

Join us for a full day of fun! Engage in thoughtful conversation, savor a fine catered lunch, make art, walk on the Salmon River spit, hike Cascade Head, and reconnect with the people and place that makes the Sitka Center such an extraordinary spot.

You'll find all the details here: [Sitka 40th Year Celebration](#)



Boyden Studio in the 1970's and now. [Show me more!](#)

[>> Free Community Events](#)

Puppet Making

Puppet Making Party on Monday July 5th from 12pm-4pm. Dawn Stetzel, local artist and past Sitka artist-in-residence, will share an incredible puppet making experience with you! It's motivated by a group called [Paperhand Puppet Intervention](#) from North Carolina. You're welcome to come for all or part of the time. No experience or supplies needed.

Crochet Night

Paper artist Helen Hiebert will be hosting a crochet night on July 7th from 7-9pm in the Boyden Studio. Come join the fun and help grow the roots of her Mother Tree exhibit, a larger-than-life-sized traveling paper dress with roots crocheted by over 300 contributors from around the world! No experience or materials are necessary - Helen will provide supplies and teach the basic crochet chain stitch. (You are welcome to bring your own natural colored, plant fiber yarn, and crochet hook.) Read [more](#) about the project.

Poetry Reading

Jennifer Boyden, author of ["The Mouths of Grazing Things"](#) and winner of the Brittingham Prize in Poetry, will be reading at Sitka on July 19th from 6-8pm in the Boyden Studio. (More details will be available on our website soon.)

For questions about any of these events, just call us at (541) 994-5485.

[>> Workshop Photos](#)

Ariel, Sitka summer intern extraordinaire, is posting photos from workshops on our [Facebook](#) page. Check them out--they are so much fun to see!

Sitka Center for Art and Ecology

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