

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

WELCOME MESSAGE

This year has brought exciting progress for the Central Oregon Center for the Arts as we move closer to our shared vision: establishing a permanent home for the performing and visual arts in Central Oregon.

Through the support of our donors, partners and community, we have advanced essential planning and strengthened the foundation needed to bring this center to life. Each step reflects the power of collective belief in the arts as a vital part of a thriving community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for standing with us. Together, we are building a future where the arts have a home that inspires, connects and enriches Central Oregon for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Laura Thompson

President, Board of Directors

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

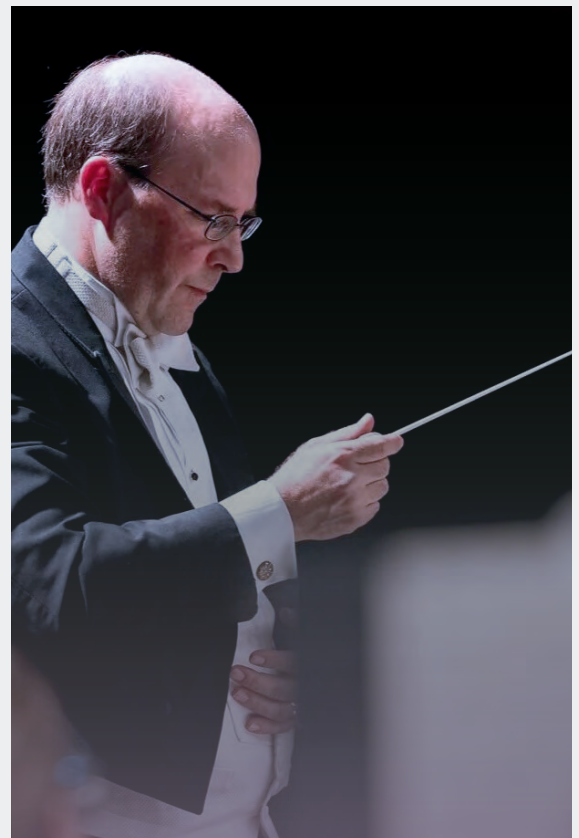
The Central Oregon Center for the Arts was born from a bold and unifying idea: that the arts deserve a permanent, state-of-the-art home in the heart of our region - one that reflects the creativity, diversity and ambition of the communities we serve.

As we look to the future, our vision remains clear and steadfast. COCA will be a gathering place, a creative incubator and a cultural destination - where artists of all disciplines can thrive and audiences of all backgrounds feel welcome, inspired and connected.

This past year, we've taken important steps toward realizing that vision. From completing critical planning milestones and infrastructure modeling, to building new partnerships and expanding our community reach, we are laying a strong foundation for what's ahead. Each piece of progress - large and small - brings us closer to the day when the Central Oregon arts community has a permanent space to call its own.

Our commitment is to create not just a building, but a vibrant ecosystem that supports education, equity, innovation and collaboration. A place where ideas are shared, stories are told and creativity is celebrated every day.

Together, we are shaping a future where the arts are not just supported, but truly centered in the cultural life of Central Oregon.





BUILDING WITH TRANSPARENCY AND PURPOSE

This year was a transformative one for COCA, marked by measurable growth, critical milestones and a renewed sense of momentum toward our vision of a permanent performing arts center for Central Oregon.

Through a series of cultivation events, COCA welcomed more than 150 dedicated attendees and hosts, raising more than \$300,000 in contributions to strengthen our foundation. Our community of supporters also grew significantly, with more than 1,700 new followers and subscribers across social and communication channels and the steadfast generosity of more than 75 donors and grant partners.

We are committed to transparency in how funding has been invested, ensuring every dollar moves us closer to realizing COCA's vision. Thanks to that generosity of our community and the dedication of our Fundraising Task Force, these resources have already supported critical groundwork for the future of a performing arts center in Central Oregon.

A major milestone was the completion of our funding feasibility study, conducted by Netzel Grigsby Associates (NGA). Through in-depth interviews with philanthropists, government officials, site partners and community leaders, NGA affirmed both the strong potential for a successful capital campaign and the key areas of growth needed to advance COCA's vision.

Their findings recommended:

- Refining project scope and location, and revising our case for support
- Expanding leadership through board and task force development
- Launching a robust community engagement initiative to deepen partnerships, broaden awareness and build broad-based support.

The numbers reflect momentum, but the true impact lies in the people - the donors, partners, volunteers and advocates who believe in creating a home for the arts in Central Oregon.

In addition, we launched a comprehensive Site Evaluation Analysis to identify the best possible location for COCA to call home.

With a small but dedicated staff, every effort has been focused on advancing these studies while ensuring responsible stewardship of resources. These careful, behind-the-scenes steps are essential to laying the foundation for a sustainable, community-rooted arts center, one that will serve generations to come.

We are grateful for the trust and support of our donors. We look forward to sharing continued progress as this work unfolds.





A LEGACY OF BELIEF: JOYCE AND ROGER KIRK

When Joyce and Roger Kirk decided to make a significant contribution to the Central Oregon Center for the Arts, they weren't just giving financially - they were investing in the cultural future of a community they now proudly call home. Their generosity reflects both a lifetime of passion for the arts and a shared belief in COCA's mission to establish a state-of-the-art performing arts center in Central Oregon.

Married for 49 years, the Kirks' story together began at Wichita State University. Their path led them first to Boise, then to Kirkland, Washington, where they spent 33 years immersed in Seattle's vibrant arts scene. Season tickets to the opera, countless productions of *The Nutcracker* and evenings spent enjoying performances across the city made the arts a meaningful and enduring thread in their lives.

When they eventually relocated to Bend, they were drawn to the region's natural beauty, its college-town spirit, and its welcoming community. But it was at a local symphony performance at Bend High that Joyce saw firsthand the challenges of Central Oregon's current arts infrastructure.

That realization became the catalyst for one of Joyce's most meaningful days. After learning about COCA's vision, she reached out to COCA's President, Laura Thompson, and scheduled a lunch. Quietly prepared, Joyce brought the donation check with her. When she handed it across the table, she caught Laura completely off guard. "It was one of the best days of my life," Joyce said. "To be able to present COCA with this donation - it felt so meaningful and joyful."

Philanthropy has long been part of Joyce's life, modeled by her mother, who made a major gift to the University of Washington in support of MS research. "That donation planted a seed," Joyce explained. "We're thankful to be in a position now where we can give in a way that really matters."

For Joyce, the arts are not a luxury but a necessity. "The arts are essential. Earth without art is just eh," she said with a smile. "It's absolutely true. I can't imagine life without them."

Since making their gift, Joyce and Roger have joined COCA in its journey of planning and discovery. They've attended board meetings, reviewed studies and participated in community sessions, gaining an inside perspective on what it takes to bring such an ambitious vision to life. "Every meeting we learn something new," Joyce said. "It's been eye-opening, and truly a joy to be part of this journey."

She's especially encouraged by the professional expertise guiding the project. "We're very well served by the groups advising us," she shared. "They've done this before, and it gives us confidence."

For Joyce, this gift has become both personal and hopeful. "It's become a very nice focus for us - we didn't expect that, but it's been wonderful. We're proud of the progress and excited for what's ahead."



SUPPORT THE ARTS, SHAPE THE FUTURE

COCA's progress is powered by people who believe in the arts' ability to connect, inspire and strengthen our community. As we move closer to building a permanent home for the arts in Central Oregon, your support matters more than ever.

Whether you attend local performances, sign up for our newsletter, make a donation or partner with us, every action brings us one step closer to realizing this vision.

Together, we can create a space that reflects the heart and spirit of our region. To donate or get involved, visit cocarts.org or contact us at info@cocarts.org. Thank you for standing with us.



WITH GRATITUDE

To all who have supported the Central Oregon Center for the Arts—thank you.

Your belief in our vision, your generosity and your continued encouragement have made this year of progress possible. Whether you donated, shared our mission, attended an event or simply cheered us on, you are part of the foundation we're building.

Your support reminds us that the arts matter. They connect us, inspire us and reflect the heart of our community. Together, we are shaping a future where creativity is nurtured, celebrated and accessible to all. We are endlessly grateful to be on this journey with you - and we look forward to all that lies ahead.

Thank you for believing in COCA.

