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### **Cultural Coalition Distributes \$11,500 in Grant Awards**

CANNON BEACH, ORE.—During an award ceremony Wednesday night, the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition awarded \$11,500 to local organizations for projects, programs and events centered on the arts, heritage, and humanities.

The ceremony took place at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, with Sheila Martin, president of the Arts Council of Clatsop County, serving as special guest speaker and presenting on how “Arts Make a Difference.” Coalition co-chair Charlene Larsen emceed the evening and local musician Chelsea LaFey provided entertainment.

The grant awards distributed during the ceremony are funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust. They will go to support projects, programs, events, and capital improvements scheduled to take place during 2024. Here is a full list of award recipients and the intended use for their grant funding:

- **Cascadia Chamber Opera:** \$2,000 to partially fund a production of “Driving While Black”
- **El Centro Northwest:** \$2,000 to help purchase costumes for performance folk dancers
- **North Coast Symphonic Band:** \$2,000 to help purchase 60 new chairs for the five partner groups at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts
- **Arts Council of Clatsop County:** \$1,300 to go toward a theater workshop for high school students from schools in the county
- **Cannon Beach Arts Association:** \$1,200 to help purchase 40 new chairs for events at the arts center
- **Seaside Museum & Historical Society:** \$1,000 to support the purchase of shelving and archival materials to store and preserve historic artifacts
- **North Oregon Coast Symphony:** \$1,000 to help purchase new percussion equipment
- **North Coast Chorale:** \$1,000 to support extra musicians, lighting, and stage decorations for a special spring concert

“With these projects underway, Clatsop County can look forward to an exciting year of celebrating the arts, humanities, and heritage in a variety of forms,” co-chair Janet Bowler says.

#### **About the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition:**

The Clatsop County Cultural Coalition strives to nurture culture in Clatsop County and promote the Oregon Cultural Trust. Allocating cultural trust funds in the form of grants is the Coalition’s primary function. Members represent diverse geographic locations and participate in the full range of local arts, heritage, and humanities. Members also can be selected at large. The Coalition endeavors to encourage support and participation in our culture in any way our combined resources can provide. For more information, visit [www.clatsopculturalcoalition.org/index.html](http://www.clatsopculturalcoalition.org/index.html).

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