



OLYMPICS PREVIEW

USA has plenty of star power
heading into Paris Games

PAGE A10

THE LIVINGSTON

ENTERPRISE

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Vol. 117 No. 318 | \$2.00



Foundation launches new Park County Arts Council

ENTERPRISE STAFF

Over the last four decades, Park County has woven together its railroad, ranching and artistic heritage to become well known as a center of Montana's arts culture.

The current prominence of the arts has resulted in Park County receiving a ranking of 14th in a list of rural arts communities, based on the national Arts Vibrancy Index assembled by the National Center for Arts Research, a project of the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist

University.

Despite Park County's rich artistic history and current artistic offerings, there has not been a broad and coordinated philanthropic effort to invest deeply in Park County arts.

"We are privileged to have a long history of writers and artists settling here, but currently need more resources to exhibit and support them, especially in the more rural parts of the county," said Melissa Ragain, Livingston resident and art history instructor at



MELANIE MAGANIAS NASHAN PHOTO

Park County starts new Arts Council.

Montana State University. "We also need to be mindful of the complex interaction between the arts and rural gentrification."

In response, and thanks

to a generous grant from the JAKET Foundation, the Park County Community Foundation (PCCF) conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of

the arts in 2023 to better understand current needs and challenges. The assessment generated a robust list of opportunities to invest in Park County's arts culture.

To help realize a coordinated vision for the arts in Park County, PCCF has launched the Park County Arts Council (PCAC), composed of Park County residents with expertise as working artists and non-profit leadership. A full list of Arts Council members is included below.

The Arts Council's

mission is to support and guide a vibrant and inclusive arts culture throughout Park County. The vision is to solidify the arts as an integral part of Park County. The overall vision is to solidify the arts as an integral part of Park County with an eye to maintaining the region's natural beauty, acknowledging our heritage, growing economic opportunities, and improving the well-being of its communities throughout the county.

More ARTS | A5

Arts/from A1

Arts Council member Karen Rinehart requested to join the council because: "I want to help support artists, art organizations, other organizations that strive to include art in their programs, educators within public and private school systems, as well as encourage collaboration between above groups. Boosting creativity in a variety of ways fosters resilience and hope through self-expression--even during tough times."

Guided by the Park County Arts Council's vision, and with an initial \$500,000 gift from the JAKET Foundation, PCCF is launching the Park County Fund for the Arts to elevate and support the arts while increasing collaboration and communication. Priority funding areas include supporting existing Park County

arts, promoting innovation in the arts in Park County, and expanding and integrating the arts throughout Park County.

The Park County Community Foundation expects to fund somewhere between two and six transformational grants, in the range of \$25,000 to \$150,000. Applications will be available in early July, with a due date of September 10. The Arts Council is also seeking to hire a part-time program coordinator to lead this work over the next two years.

"These additional grant funds create the opportunity to support programming that is currently beyond the scope of our annual We Will Park County community grants," explains Barb Oldershaw, program director for the Park County Community Foundation.

Interested members of the public are invited to visit the Park

County Community Foundation's office on 103 S Main Street in Livingston during the Art Walk on June 28 to learn more about the Park County Arts Council and this funding opportunity. Members of the Arts Council and PCCF staff will be there to answer questions.

To learn more, call PCCF at (406) 224-3920, email Program Director Barb Oldershaw at Barb.Oldershaw@pccf-montana.org or visit the Park County Community Foundation's website at <https://www.pccf-montana.org/support-the-arts>.

The 13 volunteer members of the Park County Arts Council include both working artists and leaders of nonprofit arts organizations and were identified through a call for applicants earlier this year. An effort was made to include residents from a range of communities outside of

Livingston, as noted below.

Brett Ozment, working artist, Ozment Arts.

Dalton Brink, working artist, founder and director of The Cottonwood Club.

Erika Adams, executive director, The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts.

Garrett Stannard, working musician and music educator in the Livingston Public Schools.

Karen Reinhart, recently retired curator, Park County's Yellowstone Gateway Museum; resident of Gardiner.

Laura Bray, owner, The Frame Garden gallery in Livingston.

Mary Tidlow, board member of the Electric Peak Arts Council and historic architect with the National Park Service; resident of Yellowstone National Park.

Melissa Ragain, professor of Art History at Montana State University.

Nikki Todd (Shields Valley resident), owner, Visions West Contemporary Gallery, with branches in Livingston, Bozeman, and Denver; resident of Shields Valley.

Pamela Kendall Schiffer, working artist: painter and print-maker; resident of Pine Creek.

Robin Hoggan Ebinger, founding board member, the Livingston Center for Art & Culture.

Steve Harvey, founder and co-chair of the Forget Me Knot music festival in Cooke City, board member of the Colter Pass, Cooke City, Silver Gate Community Council; resident of Silver Gate.

Traci Blakeman Isaly, working artist, Traci Jo Designs; resident of Quinn Creek.

Learn more during the June 28 Art Walk by visiting the Park County Community Foundation office on Main Street.

**Learn more about the Park County Arts Council
and the Park County Fund for the Arts by visiting:**

[PCCF-Montana.org/Support-the-Arts](https://www.pccf-montana.org/Support-the-Arts)

