



BECAUSE OF YOU... WE ARE STILL HERE

Dear Friend of The Museum At Warm Springs,

2020 is rapidly drawing to a close. All of us at The Museum At Warm Springs send our warmest thoughts and best wishes for the holiday season and approaching winter, which will soon be here. On behalf of the staff and the Museum's Board of Directors and Regents, I hope that you and your loved ones are in good health and staying safe during a challenging year.

Like so many small non-profit arts and cultural institutions around the country, The Museum At Warm Springs experienced its own set of unique challenges during 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic forced the Museum's closing in mid-March, and it wasn't until September 22 that we re-opened to the public. This reopening was under the strictest health and safety protocols, protections mandated by The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Oregon Cultural Institutions protocol, which we continue to follow in order to keep everyone safe when they visit our Museum.

This fall, we were also in the extreme wind, thunder and lightning that ignited and spread the wildfires that devastated many neighboring areas. While The Museum and the Warm Springs community were untouched by flames, we did have considerable smoke in the immediate area of the reservation and Museum, forcing our staff to stay at home and always wear protective KN-95 face coverings. We know that so many others around us were not so fortunate with the loss of lives, homes and livelihoods, and count our blessings that our Museum, staff and our priceless collections and Archives remained safe throughout.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and the fires, we had some major successes during 2020. One of the most important milestones was completing a major Museum strategic planning process. This began in 2019 when the Museum received a grant valued at \$75,000 in pro bono strategic planning services from the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland. The Museum was one of five arts and cultural organizations awardees from rural, semi-rural and metropolitan communities in the United States out of a field of forty-five selected for this award. It was a great honor to be among the best in the United States. Drawing upon the momentum from the strategic planning process, we are now carrying out a rigorous implementation plan that is defining our programmatic and financial direction for the next five years. We're excited for the future!

Visitors and the media had high praise for the exhibitions we were able to host in 2020, prior to the Museum's closure in March. We have rescheduled two exhibitions for 2021. Look for "Sacred Reflections: The Art of Umatilla Artist Ellen Taylor" (April 8-May 29) and "Into the Fray: Native American Wild-Land Firefighters of Warm Springs and Beyond" (June 24-September 25).



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Acrylic Painting Above
By Artist Emily Courtney



On October 30, we opened a new exhibition, the “27th Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit,” which will be on view through January 9, 2021. This juried exhibit celebrates the artistic excellence of Warm Springs tribal members. For 27 years, the Museum has been proud to showcase the immense talent of our local Warm Springs artists — it is one of our Museum’s most important contributions to our local community. The opportunity for visitors to the Museum to view one-of-a-kind artworks from Warm Springs artists — and be able to acquire unique and beautiful items for their own personal collections while also helping support our artists and the Museum—is something that happens only once a year and I encourage everyone to visit us before the exhibition closes in January.

For those of you who have had the opportunity to visit us, you know that The Museum At Warm Springs is a very special place of cultural and historical importance to the Warm Springs people. Designed and built to Smithsonian Institution standards in 1993, we continue to feel pride in what we do and are honored to make our home here at Warm Springs with our strong family and community ties. The staff strives each day to cultivate creative and educational connections with our community and those communities around us, and to learn from each other’s experiences and insights. It is our hope that 2021 will enable us to resume our full complement of educational workshops, public programs and other engaging activities.

We need your help more than ever! As 2020 draws to a close, we appeal to you to support our Museum with a year-end contribution. We know our friends care as we have received contributions throughout the year to aid in making up for the closure to visitors and without support through signature events of the Honor Dinner and Huckleberry Harvest. It will be with your help that we will continue to keep our Museum strong and to continue hosting beautiful and important exhibition and program offerings — a full schedule of activities that will educate and bring joy to our visitors.

Please visit our website at <https://museumatwarmsprings.org/>, and, if you are able, help us with a year end gift. You can also mail your contributions to The Museum At Warm Springs, P.O. Box 909, Warm Springs OR 97761. This year, the CARES Act is allowing larger tax deductions for charitable donations, a welcome change from past years. We hope you will take advantage of this change in the tax law. Please, consult with your tax specialist to find out more.

And please consider a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust. Your gift to the Trust (up to \$500 for individuals, \$1,000 for couples filing jointly, and \$2,500 for class-C corporations) is a tax credit, a dollar-for-dollar reduction of any Oregon taxes you owe. The Oregon Cultural Trust is a generous supporter of The Museum At Warm Springs. Double your impact on Oregon culture!

In closing, I invite you to help us shape the future of The Museum At Warm Springs! The Museum is more than a building — it represents decades of dedication to the preservation of the history, culture and heritage of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Please feel free to email me at maws@museumatwarmsprings.org or call (541) 553-3331. I would be delighted to speak with you personally about The Museum At Warm Springs.

With sincere appreciation,



Elizabeth A. Woody (Warm Springs, Yakama and Navajo)
Executive Director

P.S. Please Save the Date for Friday, May 21, 2021. We are already planning our Museum’s Annual Honor Dinner and Celebration. Next year’s honorees will be U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo (Mvskoke) and author and Warm Springs elder George W. Aguilar, Sr. (Wasco).

The Museum At Warm Springs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational institution. Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. Tax ID: 93-0639711.

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