Klondike Kate Memorial Sculpture Concept Models On Display Through April 28

Four artists arrived in Bend on April 6 to present their creative models for consideration for the Klondike Kate Sculpture Project. The sculpture, which will be installed permanently on the grounds of the museum, will incorporate rocks from Klondike Kate’s collection. Each artist brought their own unique vision to the subject matter in exciting and fun ways.

Funding for the Klondike Kate Sculpture Project is generously provided by the Charlene Blahnik Memorial Fund. An exhibit of Charlene Blahnik’s artwork is also on display through April. The memorial celebrates the life of not only Klondike Kate, but all the creative and dedicated women in Deschutes County history.
The four finalists, selected by a DCHS committee from a submission pool of 22 entries, each gave a presentation highlighting their artistic vision for the sculpture. The artists were chosen based on their grasp of the project and their history of using recycled materials such as Kate’s rock hound collection.

Selected artists were Melissa Cole of Spokane, Washington; Jenny Ellsworth of Oregon City, Oregon; John Fleming of Seattle, Washington; and Cyrra Robinson of Tumwater, Washington. The four models along with posters explaining their vision for the sculpture are currently on display at the museum.

Members are encouraged to stop by this month to view the models in person and cast a vote for your favorite. The models will be on display until April 28.

Comments from the public and our membership will help inform the final selection in May by the sculpture committee. The sculpture installation will occur in the summer and fall. Committee members are Marcelene Trujillo, Kelly Cannon-Miller, Nate Pedersen, Beau Eastes, Susie Penhollow, and Dave Blahnik.

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Kate’s Gown by Jenny Ellsworth
A Life Well Lived by Melissa Cole
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SHOWCASE

MAY 2ND, 5-7PM, REDMOND CITY HALL
SEE WHAT'S NEXT IN HIGH DESERT HISTORY

SEE ALL THE EVENTS: WWW.DESCHUTESHISTORY.ORG
Oregon Heritage Conference Inspires New Ideas
*By Sue Fountain, DCHS Vice President*

Well, we invited people from other parts of the state to come to Bend in mid-April, thinking we could show off our sunshine. It was cloudy and windy and rainy and then it snowed. So much for 365 days of sunshine! Who started that myth anyway?

Among the many sessions and workshops offered, we could see that we are doing the right things to attract new members to our organization: monthly History Pub, Walking Tours, Haunt Walks, and finding partners such as the Deschutes Public library with whom we share speakers and facilities. Library members are able to check out free passes to the museum and oral histories from the museum can be accessed through the library.

We have a Facebook page and videos on YouTube. We have partnered with Balloons Over Bend during our annual Marble Tournament to bring in young families. Many school groups visit the museum throughout the year and receive a guided tour through the exhibits. And, yes, we do have great exhibits for members and the general public to enjoy.

We also learned there are many more things we can do to create a dynamic cultural history that welcomes both old and new residents alike. A representative from Chandler, Arizona presented ideas that have worked for them. Chandler is a town that has grown from 20,000 in population to over 200,000 today. Sound familiar? Bend is on that kind of growth path. At one time Chandler was without a physical museum, but they provided their community with a museum without walls. They had kiosks, pop-up stations, and banner walls in every park. They established themselves in neighborhoods, and set up such things as a local sports hall of fame.

Each of us who attended the conference sessions returned with new ideas to energize our own special Deschutes County Museum, and to find new ways for residents and visitors to put some history in their future.
Brand new to the collection are these signs commissioned by the Bend Commercial Club in 1926, highlighting not only the virtues of living in Bend, but also the economic value of the Brooks-Scanlon and Shevlin-Hixon mills to the community.

Shipping labels on the back give the year the signs were ordered from a sign painter in Eugene. Of particular note is the reference to "pondosa" instead of ponderosa, as well as the invitation for visitors to inspect all departments!

The boards were a bequest from Anna Jean and Jack Voos. Jack worked for Brooks-Scanlon from 1947 until his retirement in 1980 when Diamond International absorbed Brooks-Scanlon. At the time, the boards hung in the mill offices, but Jack acquired them as part of the take over. The remained in the Voos family until Anna Jean's passing last year. The boards are on display at the museum.
Join Our Sustaining Circle: Get Your Membership Matched

The Deschutes County Historical Society has a new Sustaining Circle membership program, and thanks to members of our board of directors, you can join and have your dollars matched!

Sustaining Circle membership programs are great for non-profits and members. First, they provide stable gift giving over the course of a full year for non-profits, who regularly struggle with fundraising boom and bust periods. Second, they create a paper-free, don’t-worry-about-renewal-dates way for members to maintain their membership. They are also great for members’ budgets, too, enabling a way to provide support at a higher level without breaking their budget. Just $5.00 a month adds up to big support over the course of a year.

How does it work? We use two secure software programs, “Donorperfect” and “SafeSave,” to securely store your debit or credit card information with your membership. Each month, the amount you pledge is deducted from the designated account. You can relax knowing that your membership is up to date and you’re helping keep history alive in Deschutes County. We keep working to preserve our history, make new exhibits, provide tours for school field trips, and more.

Starting this month, the next sixteen entry level ($5 per month) Sustaining Circle memberships will be matched by members of our board of directors, making your gift go even further. You can securely join online through our website at https://www.deschuteshistory.org/sustaining-circle/. Need assistance? Message Tracy Alexander at tracy@deschuteshistory.org to get signed up.

Mark Your Calendars

APRIL

24 HISTORY PUB: Rajnesspuram Revisited
Presented by Carl Abbott
McMenamins Old St. Francis
Father Luke Room, 7 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.

25 HISTORY PUB ENCORE: Rajnesspuram Revisited
Presented by Carl Abbott
East Bend Library
Noon

MAY

2 HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH KICK OFF AND TOUR
Redmond City Hall
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Be sure to check the full schedule of events at deschuteshistory.org.