

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sitka Center Awarded Four Grants and Meets Endowment Challenge**

*OTIS, OR* – The Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is pleased to announce that it was recently awarded four grants totalling \$48,700. In addition, we met an endowment fund challenge to receive the final installment of a \$500,000 match made by the late John Gray.

Grants received include \$12,200 for Operating Support from the Oregon Arts Commission. This program supports arts organizations that “not only enable Oregonians to experience great art, live performances and new works, they’re making Oregon a better place by retaining jobs, inspiring students and providing lifelong learning for our citizens,” according to the Commission’s announcement of the 2013-14 fiscal year grants.

The Ford Family Foundation’s Visual Arts Program awarded the Sitka Center \$14,000 which will support Sitka’s Residency Program and individual Oregon visual artists. The Ford Family Foundation was established in 1957 by Kenneth W. and Hallie E. Ford. Its mission is “successful citizens and vital rural communities” in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. The Foundation is located in Roseburg, OR. Sitka was recognized by The Ford Family Foundation in 2010 as one of three “Golden Spots” for the excellence of its services to artists and the beauty of its physical location. The other two Golden Spots are Crow’s Shadow Institute of the Arts in Pendleton and the Caldera Center in Sisters.

Sitka’s High School Art Scholarship program, offering workshops to local Oregon coast students, was supported again by the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund with a grant of \$2,500.

We are also delighted to report that Sitka’s Endowment Campaign, a restricted fund to support a portion of annual operations, recently earned the second and final installment of \$250,000 from a \$500,000 challenge match made by the late John Gray, Oregon business leader and philanthropist. The cash basis of Sitka’s endowment now stands at over \$2 million and the endowment has also received generous bequests totaling an additional \$1.16 million. A board- and staff-led match to raise an additional \$750,000 in cash and pledges to complete the campaign will run through December 31, 2013. Executive director Jalene Case notes that interest from the endowment, projected at over \$90,000 per year calculated at a conservative 4.5%, will help ensure Sitka’s financial sustainability and allow the organization to focus its attention on providing high quality artistic programming and serving the needs of artists and workshop participants.

The final of the four grants received, \$20,000 from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation of Portland, is intended specifically to ensure operational stability while the endowment campaign is underway.

*Committed to expanding the relationships between art, nature and humanity, the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is renowned for its workshop and residency programs. Exploration of the coastal environment has remained a key component to the Center's vitality. Located near Cascade Head, with views of the Pacific Ocean, the Sitka Center offers a place where artists, writers, environmental scientists and musicians of all abilities and backgrounds come to nourish and inspire their creativity, which ripples out into our world making it a brighter place for all. For more details visit [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org).*

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