**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Jan. 29, 2025
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 **Willamette Art Center Needs Community Support After Unexpected Lease Termination**

 **Salem, OR:** The Willamette Art Center (WAC) was recently informed by the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center that it will not renew its lease, forcing the WAC to vacate its current facility by June 30, 2025. This unexpected announcement leaves the beloved community arts organization only five months to secure a new location and continue its vital programming.

“While the short timeline presents a significant challenge, we are embracing this opportunity to find a new home that better serves our needs and allows us to expand our offerings,” says Lisa Joyce, Executive Director of the Willamette Art Center. “With the support of our community, we will navigate this transition and continue to provide accessible arts education for all.”

For nearly 20 years, the WAC has served as a cornerstone of the Salem art community, providing classes, workshops, and events for all ages. The WAC fosters creativity and artistic expression throughout the region, from ceramics and painting to Family Clay Sundays and artist residencies in schools.

 **Immediate Needs and Call to Action:**

The WAC seeks community support in the following areas:

* **Financial Contributions:** Donate now to cover relocation costs, building renovations, and new equipment.
* **Facility Leads:** Help the WAC find a new facility by sharing leads or suggestions.
* **Volunteer Support:** Lend your construction, fundraising, and event planning expertise and ideas.
* **Spread the Word:** Share this news with your networks and encourage support for the WAC.

“We believe in the power of art to transform lives and strengthen our community,” adds Joyce. “We are determined to overcome this hurdle and ensure accessible arts education remains available to everyone.”

 **How to Get Involved:**

* **Donate:** Visit **bit.ly/WACSupport** to make a secure online donation.
* **Volunteer:** Complete the volunteer form at **bit.ly/WACRelocate**.
* **Contact:** Share your ideas and resources by emailing **info@willametteartcenter.com**.
* **Stay Informed:** Visit the willametteartcenter.com for updates and FAQs.

 **About the Willamette Art Center:**

The Willamette Art Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing lifelong learning and exploration of the arts. Through classes, workshops, community events, and outreach programs, the WAC fosters creativity, artistic expression, and access to the arts for all.

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