



For Immediate Release

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ARTS & CULTURE ROUNDTABLES EXPLORE CROSS-CULTURAL COLLABORATION

A three-part series addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion in our local arts community

EUGENE, Oregon—A three-part series of Arts & Culture Roundtables will return in June, with a workshop, panel, and facilitated discussion led by local arts and community leaders. The series creates an opportunity for dialogue about fostering equitable, inclusive, and respectful cross-cultural collaborations within organizations, artist collectives, and our arts community. Each session will also include a short creative presentation or performance featuring a local artist. Following the theme “Building Bridges,” the goal of the series is to help deepen understanding of the structural racism that affects us all to work toward lessening division in the community and flourishing in the strength of collective diversity. The Roundtables were developed by a committee with representation from Lane Arts Council, Florence Regional Arts Alliance, Minority Voices Theatre, Wordcrafters in Eugene, and local artists and community members.

These three sessions will be held as hybrid events on June 5th, June 12th, and June 15th from 4:00-6:00pm both virtually and in-person at the Midtown Arts Center in Eugene. Participation in Arts & Culture Roundtables is free and open to all, but registration is required. Artists, cultural producers, arts and cultural administrators, board members of arts and cultural organizations, and local arts advocates throughout Lane County are encouraged to attend.

It is strongly recommended that those interested in participating make the commitment to attend all three parts of this series. However, registration is allowed for single-session participation.

Learn more and register at <https://lanearts.org/roundtables/>

The three-part series includes the following events:

Education Roundtable - Monday, June 5th, 4-6pm

Join local community advocate and educator Eric Richardson, as he calls on participants to reflect on their roles and perspectives within their community and ways to become an active participant in creating equity in society. Eric Richardson has a long history of social activism in Lane County, including work facilitating conversations on identity, cultural inclusion, and issues of social significance. Richardson served 9 years with the local NAACP and continues to serve the community by sitting on the boards for Habitat for Humanity Oregon and United Way of Lane County. He is currently the DEI Organizational Strategist at the Oregon Family Support Network.

Arts Panel Roundtable - Monday, June 12th, 4-6pm

Actively engage with a panel of collaborating artists, which includes Marta Clifford and Theresa May of illioo Native Theatre and Carol Dennis and Stanley Coleman of Minority Voices Theatre, who will bring their lived experience as collaborators and creators within the local community, and answer participant questions in an open, facilitated discussion that builds on the Educational Roundtable. Both of these theatres have a mission of raising voices of underrepresented stories in our community and are co-led by a BIPOC leader and white advocate.

Discussion Roundtable - Thursday, June 15th, 4-6pm

Wrap up the series with a facilitated community conversation, led by community leaders and social justice advocates Isis Barone and Maree Beers, where participants can bring their ideas and thoughts inspired by previous Roundtables into a dynamic discussion of ways we can all work to actively take steps toward creating a more open and just collaborative atmosphere right here in Lane County.

About Arts & Culture Roundtables

In 2020, Lane Arts Council and community partners began bringing together Lane County artists and arts leaders for facilitated conversations around the current issues central to our arts community. This series of roundtables is a continuation of these greater conversations, with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion and racial justice in the arts.

Arts & Culture Roundtables are a partnership of Lane Arts Council, [Florence Regional Arts Alliance](#), [Minority Voices Theatre](#), [Wordcrafters in Eugene](#), [City of Eugene Cultural Services](#), and local artists and community members. The 2023 series of community conversations is supported with funds from [United Way of Lane County](#), [Umpqua Bank](#), and [City of Eugene Cultural Services](#). This program was made possible in part by a grant from [Oregon Humanities](#) (OH), a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), which funds OH's grant program. Oregon Humanities offers programs and publications that help Oregonians connect, reflect, and learn from one another.

About Lane Arts Council

Founded in 1976, Lane Arts Council is a nonprofit organization that works to cultivate strong and creative arts communities throughout Lane County. They provide high-quality arts experiences, engaging people of all ages in arts education and encouraging artistic endeavors.

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