



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Greetings!

We are two months into 2021 and there are signs that in the months to come life will begin to return to a new normal. 2021 will be a busy year for the Grace Commons Project as we begin our fundraising efforts and refine our building plans. Our hope is that we will progress enough on both of these fronts to apply for funding for the Affordable Housing in early 2022, but that will depend largely on where we are with fundraising for the Community and Arts Building.

The Affordable Housing will be financed with funding from tax credits, while the Community and Arts Building will be funded through fundraising. While these buildings do not have to begin construction at the same time, it will be more efficient and less costly if they do.

Below are a couple of questions we received after the last newsletter. Please continue to submit any questions you might have to: nancy.entrikin@gmail.com

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Grace Commons Q&A

Q. Is it planned to keep the wonderful evergreen magnolia tree? It is such a wonderful big old tree, it would be such a shame to lose it.

A. With the plans we are looking at right now, the magnolia tree would probably need to be removed. The apartments will be along 16th and code requires them to extend all the way to the sidewalk on Weidler. There will be a somewhat narrow path between the apartments and the West side of the church to get into the courtyard and it looks like the magnolia tree would block that entrance. However, this project is in constant flux, so we can't say conclusively that this is what will happen.

Q. Is there any thought of having a community garden? This could be a great way to establish community and build relationships in the neighborhood. If this is possible, we would be interested to help get it going. By the way, it is more than a mile to the closest community gardens from Grace.

A. We are building a lot on our rather small block, so there's not going to be much unused space. We should be able to have a small kitchen herb garden, but there just wouldn't be room for a community garden in our current plans. We will have a nice sized courtyard and we are looking at an outdoor stage for live theatre or entertainment and hope to be able to project movies in this space in the summer and spill out into it from our parish hall when we have big events. There is sadly no room for a community garden.

Learn more about Grace Institute:

Grace Institute is thrilled to be a partner in the Grace Commons campus development! Since 1997, Grace Institute's signature program, Grace Art Camp, has been dedicated to opening awareness through art, culture, and story in a process-oriented environment for children, ages 4-12. Summers consist of a cultural or regional focus and spans seven one-week long sessions (eight weeks of camp will be

offered summer 2021); 3-day Winter and Spring Break Camps honor seasonal themes of peace and renewal.

Art studios are led by professional artists and offer a variety of experiences and skills in the visual & performance arts, storytelling, fused glass, ceramics, and fibre. High school and college youth lead and support the campers in all activities in a caring and nurturing, respectful way. Studio projects and activities are inspired by the “story of the week,” culminating in a weekly celebration to honor the community cultivated over the course of the week together.

By fostering a collaborative, process-oriented and diverse community, children and staff alike have the opportunity to discover something about their purpose in the world. Grace Art Camp was developed around the premise that, inherent within the creative process, there are opportunities to create awareness, understanding, and compassion for ourselves and all humans everywhere. Through this process we can encourage each other to be curious, responsible, and compassionate, and to honor each other’s gifts as we learn to appreciate our differences.

The year-round Grace Institute team is creatively planning for a safe and quality camp experience as we recover from the pandemic. While we diligently work on the specifics of how camp will look, we ensure that we will be practicing CDC- and OHA-recommended camp guidelines for optimum health and safety. In addition, we are hopeful that with widespread vaccinations, we will enable campers, artists and staff alike to share in a stress free, joyful and creative art camp experience.

Our core values: Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, and Receptivity
(one of our camp songs: *The 4 Rs of Community*)

Meet the Grace Institute Staff:

Sharon Loomis-Malin joined Grace Institute in mid-May 2019 as Executive Director & Art Camp Director. Sharon had previously been Grace Art Camp director from 1999 through 2006. Throughout her most recent 12 years’ experience in administrative, controller and human resources management in the energy efficiency consulting industry, Sharon has remained passionate about the arts! Sharon holds a B.S. in



Communications in Home Economics from Oregon State University and has extensive experience in fundraising and special events. A former tennis player for Oregon State, Sharon has revived her tennis playing after a multi-decade hiatus and now competes and captains fun, recreational level teams. Sharon was an assistant coach for the Grant High School Girls Tennis Team in 2017–2018 and sings in the choir for Grace Memorial Episcopal Church.

Kelley Wong, Development Director. As of February 2021, Kelley is the newest staff member to join the Grace Institute team. With a B.A. in Human Services from Western Washington University and a Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies from Multnomah University, she has spent the bulk of her 30+ year career in educational and non-profit fund development and event management. Whether at home or at work, Kelley’s passion is celebrating others through music, storytelling, writing, events and personal recognition. In her free time, Kelley loves working on stained glass mosaics, reupholstering and naming vintage chairs, tending her garden, baking scones and serving elaborate British-style afternoon teas at her home. She and her husband have traveled extensively around the world and enjoy when their two young adult sons can tag along.



Mariann Koop-McMahon, Registrar & Operations Manager. Raised in a family of artists, Mariann’s lifelong love of stories, myth, legends, folktales, and fairytales found an outlet at Art Camp in 1998 as a parent. Soon after, she became part of the administrative team that grew Art Camp to 1200 campers spanning seven weeks. Holding a B.A. in Communications and History from the University of Portland, Mariann’s career has been predominately supporting non-profits through grant writing, fundraising, public relations, communications, and graphic design. Other experiences include those of Junior



Great Books Leader at Oregon Episcopal School, and as an award-winning watercolor painter exhibiting with Watercolor Society of Oregon and Oregon Society of Artists. Passionate about social justice and art, Mariann can be found weekly at her quilting group, making quilts for women and families in local domestic violence shelters. A third generation Oregon native, Mariann and her family reside in a house in the urban woods alongside neighboring owls.

Annie Rimmer-Weeks, Business Manager & Bookkeeper

Annie joined Grace Institute in the spring of 2018. Annie has a B.A. from Willamette University in theatre and has worked as a bookkeeper for more than a decade. In addition to her time as a bookkeeper, she has worked as an actor, costumer, director and marketing assistant for local theatre companies. She has written, performed and produced original performances in Portland's Fertile Ground Festival. She also enjoys working in film and creating multimedia projections for the stage with her husband. In her spare time, you can find Annie drinking tea, tap dancing and spending time with her husband, friends and cat.



Visit grace-institute.org to learn more.

Grace Commons Consortium

The Grace Commons Project has formed a separate non-profit 501C3. It was decided in working with SOJ (Sheils Obletz Johnson - featured in the Sept/Oct Newsletter) that we needed an overall intake for fundraising to support the Community and Arts Building. When construction is complete, this entity, known as Grace Commons Consortium (GCC), will also have the job of management for the Building to include scheduling for outside groups and administrative management.

GCC will have its own board, which will be one person from Grace Church, one person from Grace Institute and one person from PHAME. Decisions will be required to be unanimous.

Currently, there is work being done on Bylaws, Operating Agreement, Capital Cost Responsibility Agreement, Fundraising Policy Agreement and Articles of Incorporation.

