

*Creativity, Nature, and Community*

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT



  
CALDERA

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*A thing broke a long time ago.*

*It was a mountain.      It couldn't be fixed.      Not even close.*

*So it became something else.      a bowl*

*Scientists would say a depression in the center of the volcano.*

*Very un-mountain-like.*

*Anyway, rain filled it.*

*Trees surrounded it.*

*Kids dreamed on it.*

*Artists stayed on it.*

*Creativity* grew from it,  
and the bowl became more than a bowl.

*It became a place where kids and artists and  
people could feel like everything is possible  
and nothing needs to stay broken.*



CALDERA



**MISSION:**

Caldera’s mission is to inspire and support youth from underserved rural and urban communities by awakening the potential of their creative voice.

**OUR VISION:**

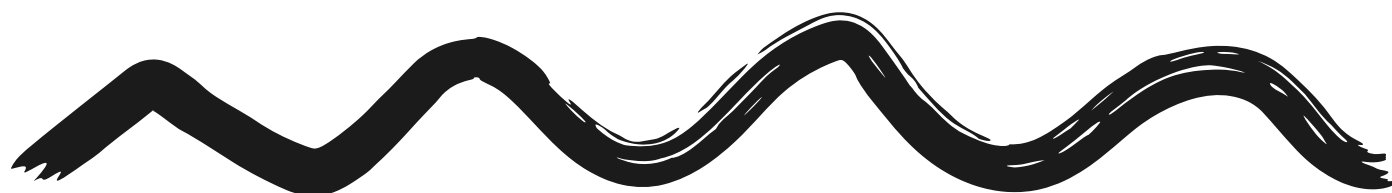
To give every young person unfettered access to the explosive power of creativity so they can create a better world.

**CALDERA NAMES:**

At Caldera, we all go by another name. Many longtime friends in our community will only refer to each other by these special names we use when we are together. This is the name that everyone calls you at Caldera.

All of our learners, every Artist in Residence, and each member of our board and staff have the opportunity to choose a name for themselves. This means that as a member of this Caldera community, we are all encouraged to be the person or idea that we may not always feel able to be in our day-to-day lives.

When we encourage learners to think aspirationally about how they want the world to see them, their Caldera name emerges. At Caldera we have the opportunity to be our best selves, and our Caldera name should reflect that.



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Dear Reader,

As I sit down to write this letter, fall has arrived, and the crisp in the air reminds me that winter is coming. It feels a bit like the Friday before a long weekend. It is the transition season from summer light to winter slow.

Like many community-based organizations, Caldera uses this season to reflect on the fiscal year that just closed: July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This timing is especially important for an organization like ours, where the summer is the heart and the soul of the work we do. What began as a week-long summer program in August 1997 has evolved into a very special 8 to 10 days and nights youth spend on the land, as well as a year-round intercultural community through school partnerships.

Summer at Caldera is both the launch of the year and the culmination of the school-year prior. It’s a little bit like the snake mural the Apprentices painted in the Hearth Building, which prepared them for the RootedHomes project you’ll read more about in these pages. The snake is one continuous form, eating its own tail. Where is the beginning and where is the end? What comes first, the connection or the confidence? The creativity, community, or contribution?

Fiscal year 2025 was a year of community building. We focused all our efforts on expanding the ecosystem that inspires and supports our youth. The impact speaks for itself:

- The summer program saw more than 190 learners—the largest cohort ever!
- The Impact Team launched our new High School Apprentice program, developed a comprehensive evaluation plan, and welcomed guests new and old to Caldera, in our little corner of Jefferson County.
- We served nearly 500 people year-round from Warm Springs, Madras, Redmond, Sisters, Bend, and the Portland metro area, with mentors spending one day a week in class with Caldera learners at 11 middle schools and three high schools.
- We began a longitudinal study following sixth graders through their seven-year Caldera journey from middle school to graduation.

While building community at Caldera this fiscal year, we achieved our goal to enlarge the circle of inspiration and support for the youth we serve. School is for learning, yes. Home is for nurturing—sometimes. As you read through these pages, look at these images, and review the data, consider the impact of third spaces—like Caldera—where young people can awaken their creative voice in an intercultural community and be open to the infinite ideas that may one day change the course of history.

Warmest regards,

Kimberly Howard Wade  
Queen Bee

# IMPACT

## Who & How We Serve

Caldera continues to positively impact youth development, from strengths in creative expression, confidence, and connection, to cultivating an understanding among young people of the difference they can make in the world. In FY25, we served nearly 500 learners across Central Oregon and the Portland metro area, growing participation in Caldera's programs. We welcomed 192 summer camp learners, worked with 295 learners in school-based classes, and cultivated 176 unique learners through fall and spring weekend intensives. Over the past year, Caldera employed eight youth through the reintroduction of the High School Apprentice program.



60%

of learners we serve identify as people of color

71%

of learners we serve are eligible for free or reduced lunch

54%

of our learners come from the Portland metro area

44%

of our learners come from Central Oregon



Caldera was born at the Sisters campus 28 years ago in the Cascade Mountains. Three decades later, Caldera's work is still deeply connected to the land and buildings at the state-of-the-art facility on Blue Lake. However, Caldera is just as much an experience as it is a place.

The young middle and high school learners described in the preceding pages embarked on a journey with Caldera that can span more than seven years. We typically meet youth in middle school by partnering with schools throughout the Portland metro area and Central Oregon, where Caldera middle school mentors lead a weekly class. Learners work on projects such as collage, photography, and drawing. Regardless of the medium, mentors use creativity as a tool to explore identity, community, and the larger world.

We continue the relationship with learners into high school, with a mix of weekly in- and out-of-school programming. Last year, we were thrilled to deepen high school engagement through our High School Apprentice program, which you'll read about later in this report.

Twice during the school year, all Caldera learners are invited to participate in Weekend Intensives in addition to the overnight summer program.

All of Caldera's youth work incorporates these core ingredients: Awe and Wonder, Intercultural Connection, Safety, Self-reflection, Failure and Resilience, Dependability, and Applied Creativity. Every year, youth from rural Central Oregon and the Portland metro area come together and learn from each other with guidance from reliable adult mentors, who give learners the safety to experiment and expand their creative selves.

We know we can't serve young people without an expansive network of dedicated adults. That's why we also offer robust adult programming, or Caldera Experiences, which you can read about on page 14.

**78%**

of our graduating youth felt like they could take what they learned and make a positive impact on their communities



# PROGRAMS

## 2024-25 School Year

FY25 was a big year for Caldera's year-round programming. Middle school mentors focused on introducing our learners to different art mediums that were focused on helping our youth find and express their creative voice. At the high school level, our mentors worked to foster and deepen that creativity through in-depth art projects. Some of these projects included zine making, creating movie trailers, painting sunset silhouettes using watercolors, and designing and painting custom Nike Air Force 1 shoes. Our team worked in partnership with schools and teaching artists on both sides of the mountain to bring a regular creative practice through art-making to our young learners.

### *In FY2025, we worked in:*

#### PORTLAND:

Harriet Tubman Middle School  
H.B. Lee Middle School  
OPEN School  
Rosemary Anderson Middle School  
Roseway Heights Middle School  
St. Andrew Nativity School

#### CENTRAL OREGON:

Elton Gregory Middle School  
Jefferson County Middle School  
Obsidian Middle School  
Madras Middle School  
Sisters Middle School  
Sisters High School  
Warm Springs K-8 Academy



## Summer Program

During the summer season, our learners attended one of our four sessions of 8- to 10-day overnights along the shores of Blue Lake, divided by grade level. Last summer, we welcomed more than 190 youth who explored three core art areas: photography, filmmaking, and African drumming. Caldera offers additional art mediums that rotate each year. In 2024, these included ceramics, drawing and comics, and music production or beat making. Caldera's teaching artists and youth advocates help students nurture their creativity and strengthen their artistic skills while collaborating on a larger project presented at the culminating showcase.

In addition to Caldera's diverse art rotations, students experienced environmental education in the incomparable setting of Blue Lake, participated in our low ropes course with the signature giant swing, and jumped from the top of the Dream Tree with Caldera's challenge course team. Students also enjoyed traditional camp experiences like campfires, open mics, and challenging the staff to a Caldera-wide game of capture the flag. As always, it ended with the chance to jump into Blue Lake one last time on the final day at the Polar Bear Plunge.





## Alum Spotlight: Dauntless

Caldera alumni are doing incredible things. As a learner, Dauntless started attending Caldera mentor classes at Jason Lee K-8 in 2014 and continued programming through high school, graduating to earn a BS in public policy from Oregon State University. Today, he serves as the constituent relations coordinator for the Portland office of Mayor Keith Wilson, using his creativity and passion for environmental justice to drive impact on a regional scale.

*"I was given the tools to express myself creatively. As a young Black kid, I never had many opportunities to explore my artistic realm. However, entering the world of Caldera changed my mindset about what art is, and what it should be. Caldera was also my first experience in a space where I could interact with the environment around me, and for days at a time. I was able to learn how the environment is not just a place for wildlife, but where we live, work, play, and love.*

*Caldera accelerated my passion for environmental justice. In fact, Caldera's emphasis on environmentalism has allowed me to tap into my passions for the natural world, and to pursue a career where I could work to create healthier environments and communities for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, people of color communities who share the disproportionate burden of environmental injustices and climate change.*

*Caldera was the first community where I was given the tools to express myself creatively.*

*I am extremely thankful for Caldera for allowing me to be my authentic self and giving me the opportunities and mentorship I needed to recognize my potential and utilize it in a position in my future career where I can idealize and implement a better world for all."*

## Launch Pad: Igniting Creative Futures

Launch Pad is Caldera's incubator program for recent alumni ages 18–24, offering paid opportunities that help them turn their creative passions into purposeful careers. Through mentorship, business planning support, and real-world experience, participants gain the confidence, skills, and networks to launch their next chapter.

Now in its second year, Launch Pad empowers youth to explore entrepreneurship and creative careers while staying rooted in community. At Hearth Festival, three outstanding alumni shared their journeys:

VOID, a University of Oregon graduate, showcased images and designs from his Bodega project and has since joined Oregon Screen Impressions full time.

JEWEL invited festival goers to join her in the art of tile decorating, inspired by traditional Mexican folk art mirrors.

JEDI took the stage time with Caldera's Executive Director to discuss channeling her creativity into her coffee shop, Above Grnd, and how it's shaped her approach to serving the community.



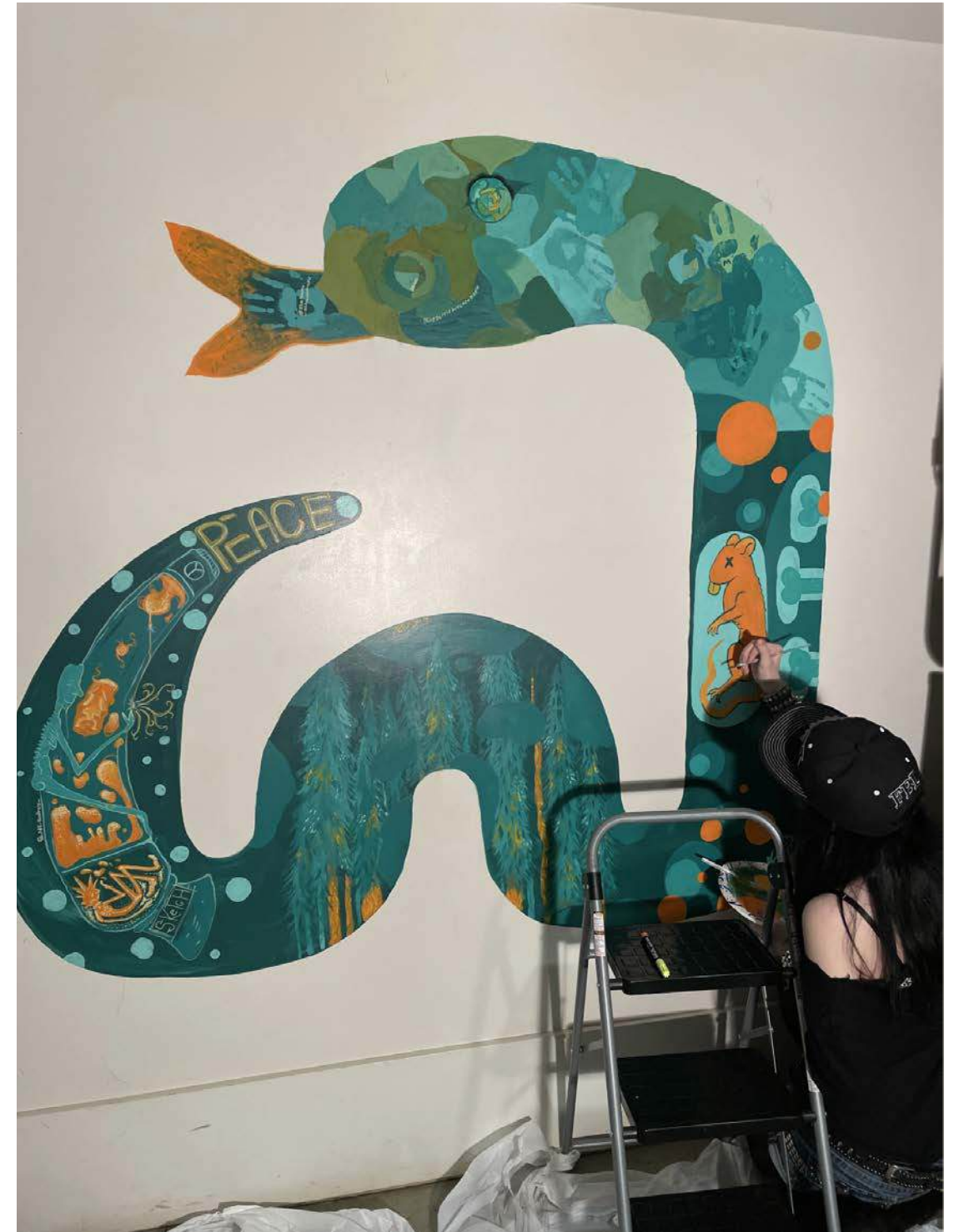
# Apprentices

This past year, Caldera's Apprentice Program came back in a big way. The 2024-25 cohort consisted of 10 high school students: five in Portland and five in Central Oregon. These 10 emerging artists took the spark of creativity that they found as Caldera youth and explored developing it further. What does it mean to create art for others? How much power does a creative voice have, and what can it accomplish? These were questions they sought to answer through their work and the experiences they had as Apprentices.

On the Portland side of the mountain, Apprentices photographed Caldera merchandise meant to be sold, aptly named the "Apprentice Collection," with profits supporting Caldera's programming. Apprentices were given a creative briefing and style guide and worked closely with Caldera Community Members Sister JRae and Oso to capture the joy of creativity that Caldera represents. The Apprentices also had the opportunity to attend TEDx Portland, where they were inspired by the speakers at the event and represented Caldera as ambassadors at our information tent.

The Portland Apprentices worked on a Media Literacy Project developed by Caldera and Sister JRae. This six-month intensive blended research, writing, ethics, sourcing material, and citation skills with opportunities for Apprentices to express their own creative voices. Throughout the project, they completed a series of art-based lessons that ultimately led to the creation of a 46-page multidisciplinary magazine featuring digital design, poetry, collage, and illustration—showcasing the breadth of skills they built. The project was also featured in a short-form documentary—broadcast locally—that included interviews with Caldera Apprentices.

Our Central Oregon Apprentices explored a different type of creative expression this year. Read more about this community engagement on page 18.



*"This [Apprentice Mural] echoes the history of alumni Komodo Dragon, the summer learner who found the snake swallowing the fish bigger than its body and captured the moment for the photo rotation. The photo lives in one of the rooms within Tamarack Hall and I'm sure it's a moment Sister JRae, photography teaching artist and Caldera Elder, cherishes as well, since it's part of the yearly trek to the dry creek beds across the meadows of the Rim Trail. A place of a bit of discomfort for most students, but it sparks curiosity, resilience, and that in community anything is possible."*

— Oso, Caldera Community Member

# CALDERA EXPERIENCES



## Caldera AiR 2025

Caldera's Artists in Residence (AiR) is an interdisciplinary program that offers artists, creatives, and cultural workers the time and space to advance their creative practice. Every year, artists are invited from across the country to experiment, disrupt, and delve deeper—into themselves, their work, and the natural world that surrounds Caldera's campus in the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range.

25 artists were invited to Caldera in 2025 and awarded more than \$19,000 in stipends. These artists also served 50 learners through Caldera's educational programming.

One artist of note, River Dandelion, is a practitioner of ancestral medicine through writing, teaching, energy healing, and creating ceremony. While at Caldera, River focused on completing their poetry manuscript, *Take Me to That Place of Ancestral Memory*, a collection that honors matriarchs and ancestors across generations in Taishan and New York City. It was a privilege to host River among a cohort of so many other interesting artists, and our community looks forward to River's return in an upcoming Community Residency.

Caldera's AiR program strengthens our ecosystem in many ways: bringing accomplished artists to work with mentors and youth, showcasing diverse adult learners with regular creative practices, and championing women, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, parent, and teaching artists. Through all these connections, Caldera's AiR program helps youth learners see that their art, voice, actions, and creations have value—and that creativity can shape both their lives and the world around them.

**25** artists hosted  
and awarded more than \$19,000 in stipends

Thanks to the Ford Family Foundation, the Roundhouse Foundation, and the Oregon Cultural Trust



# Caldera Central Oregon Engagement: RootedHomes Mural

## Building Community Through Creativity

Five young creatives, one united vision, and a lasting gift for the RootedHomes community.

When RootedHomes partnered with the Caldera Apprentice Program, the invitation was simple: transform a blank wall into something meaningful. What followed was a months-long creative journey that brought together five young creatives, professional mentors, and an entire community.

The 2024–2025 Central Oregon Apprentice Cohort embraced the challenge, turning their collective talent into a mural that celebrates the region's landscapes, history, and people. The project stands as a testament to the belief that youth-led creativity can shape stronger, more connected communities. The team—BBABs from Warm Springs, Mayay from Madras, Fynix and Moss from Redmond, and sKeTcH from Prineville—represented diverse voices and experiences from across Central Oregon. Together, they embraced the challenge of creating a work that celebrated local identity and natural beauty while uniting their individual styles.

Each scene in the mural reflects both the Apprentices' personal artistic voice and a shared vision of place, memory, and belonging. Together, the mural creates a layered narrative that honors community roots while looking toward a sustainable future. The Apprentices followed a five-phase process: Research, Ideation, Technique, Color, and Design.

This project demonstrates the value of youth-led creativity in shaping public spaces. For the Apprentices, it was a chance to grow as artists, collaborators, and leaders. For RootedHomes and the Redmond community, the mural offers more than a beautified wall—it is a symbol of identity, resilience, and hope. By grounding creative solutions in local research and lived experience, the mural ensures that residents see themselves and their environment reflected in the built landscape.

The RootedHomes Community Mural stands as a lasting testament to the power of young voices, collective imagination, and creativity's ability to strengthen community.



# Appreciation Dinner

On November 7, 2024, our guest experiences team hosted a Community Appreciation Dinner in Sisters, Oregon—a heartfelt evening honoring those who have supported Caldera’s mission over the years. Gathered around the table were staff, board members, partners, local businesses, supporters, and friends both new and familiar.

The evening was more than a celebration; it was an opportunity to deepen connections and share the impact of our programs. Conversations sparked fresh interest in future group experiences and cultivated a growing awareness of Caldera’s work within the community.

This gathering also opened the door for Experience Caldera—a pathway for more fee-for-service opportunities that invites others to engage with the land and bring their own mission-aligned work to life here. All of this supports Caldera’s mission to inspire and support youth from underserved rural and urban communities by awakening the potential of their creative voice. The warmth and enthusiasm shared that night reaffirmed our commitment to fostering creativity, connection, and growth through meaningful partnerships.



# Experience Caldera: FY2025

## Site Rentals

In FY25, Caldera welcomed 10 community experiences to the land, including four new partners who came seeking space for reflection, creativity, and growth. Each group brought its own story and purpose, adding depth and heart to our mountain landscape.

This year, we were especially honored to host the Women’s Foundation of Oregon for their AWE retreat: three days designed to replace panels, pressure, and performance with nature, nourishment, and rest. 31 nonprofit leaders gathered in the A-frame cabins, Tamarack Hall, and new canvas bell tents to breathe, dream, and remember what wholeness feels like. Their time at Caldera became part of a larger movement—a reimagining of how rest, reflection, and community care can fuel justice for Oregon’s women and girls.



## Strengthening Oregon’s Creative Ecosystem

The SFF Presents’ Song Camp also returned, filling our forest with sound and creativity. Our growing three-year partnership will continue to nurture Oregon’s vibrant music community, amplifying the role of art in collective healing and expression.

We welcomed Realms Middle School of Bend, whose students spent time on our grounds engaging in both school and Caldera-led programming, and discovering new ways to learn, explore, and connect with one another through creativity and nature.

These gatherings reflect the same spirit we nurture in Caldera learners: space to slow down, reconnect with nature, and imagine new possibilities. Every stay strengthens our creative ecosystem while supporting Caldera’s Youth Programs, all through this fee-for-service experience program that ensures young people across Oregon can continue to imagine, create, and thrive.

*Interested in hosting your next retreat or gathering at Caldera?  
Reach out to learn more about our unique site rental options set in the beauty of Central Oregon.  
carolyn.hernandez@caldera.org*



# Hearth Festival 2024

The third annual Hearth Festival was a celebration of creativity that explored new mediums for self-expression. True to tradition, Caldera's Hearth Festival 2024 showed how

*everything, everything, everything*

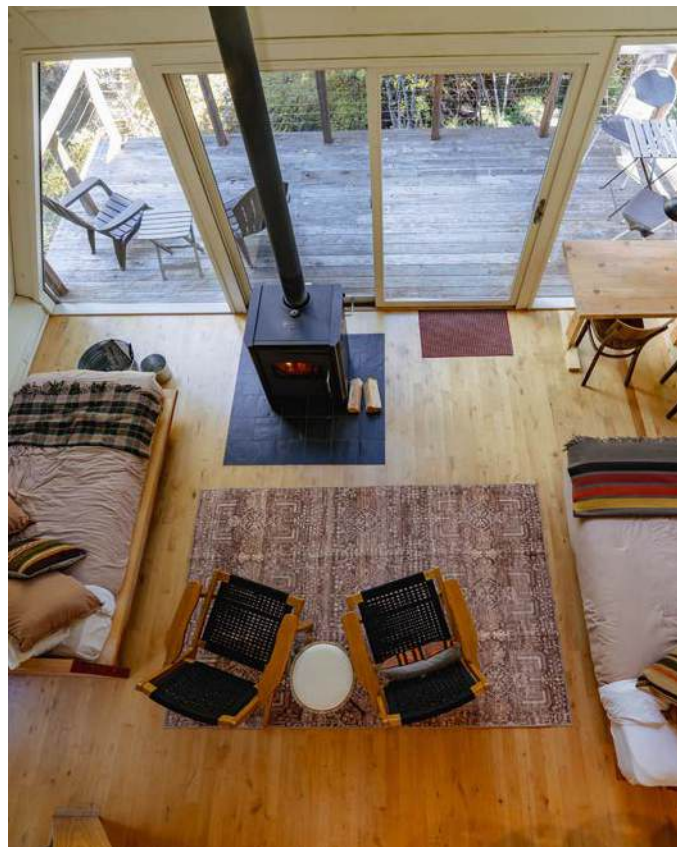


can be creative with the addition of new interactive maker spaces. We were honored to welcome more than 300 people to the shores of Blue Lake and are grateful for the supporters who made it possible.

**IKEBANA FLOWER ARRANGING:** This intentional, hands-on experience provided festival goers with a unique opportunity to engage in focused, contemplative art. The activity served as a vital balance to some of the high-energy stations, fostering a deep creative focus with natural elements.

**ICE SCULPTING:** The ice sculpting station was an ephemeral, communal experience where attendees were given the tools and guidance to explore artistic expression through a unique medium.

**SONGWRITING:** Executed in partnership with the Sisters Folk Festival, this station taught attendees the basics of musical composition as they wrote an original masterpiece.



We are grateful to our supporters who help make the Hearth Festival possible: *Beneficial State Bank, Brown & Brown, LAIKA, Moda Health, Priscilla Bernard Wieden, and Wieden+Kennedy.*

# Drawing Room 2025

The Caldera Drawing Room is more than just another event; it represents a unique combination of intimate gathering, creative exploration, and community engagement.

Those who joined us in January and May experienced firsthand the artistic culinary creations of Chef Gregory Gourdet, the inspiring entrepreneurial spirit of Jenny Nguyen, and the invaluable connections made with the Caldera team.

Board members Tonia Jones, Adriana Noesi, and Jason White shared insights into their creative leadership journeys and engaged in conversation with our distinguished guests.

The Drawing Rooms are curated gatherings designed to generate funds and cultivate meaningful connections. We are committed to intimate evenings that delve into the profound impact of creativity. Together, we investigate how creative energy can contribute to the development of vibrant, inclusive communities, and then take that energy back into our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Two impactful Drawing Room events from FY25 were held at The Sports Bra and Kann, and each evening was a rich tapestry of creativity, connection, and inspiration. These events served as powerful reminders that creativity is not solely for the young, but essential for us all.

At The Sports Bra, Jenny Nguyen recounted the remarkable journey of establishing the first women's sports bar, transforming an innovative concept into a flourishing, community-centric establishment. At Kann, we enjoyed an exceptional meal and engaged in a profoundly thought-provoking discussion with Chef Gregory, who shared how his Haitian heritage and personal experiences fueled his passion for food and creative expression.

We eagerly anticipate your presence at next year's Drawing Rooms!

Regardless of what resonated with you this year, we hope you departed your Caldera Drawing Room experience feeling thoroughly revitalized:

*Enriched by creative connections  
Inspired by newfound curiosity  
And, of course, completely satisfied  
by exquisite cuisine.*



For more information about our next Drawing Room event, please contact [development@caldera.org](mailto:development@caldera.org).

*Thank you to our sponsors and table hosts for the evening at Kann:  
Billups, Cole Valley Partners, KeyBank, Priscilla Bernard Wieden,  
The Standard, and Wieden+Kennedy.*

# OUR FINANCIALS FY2025

*Take a look at the ways your giving has supported our programming from July 2024 to June 2025.*

Your gift to Caldera is an investment in the future of young learners and artists across Oregon. We take your generosity seriously and work to ensure our financial integrity and impact.

#### THINKING OF MAKING A GIFT?

*Here are some ways you can have a real impact:*

Making a gift of your appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to Caldera not only supports our work; it saves you money on taxes.

When you donate your appreciated stock, mutual funds, or bonds to Caldera, we will sell your gift and use the proceeds to support vital programming. You avoid paying capital gains tax and might also be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction.

*Consider naming Caldera as a beneficiary in your estate plan:*

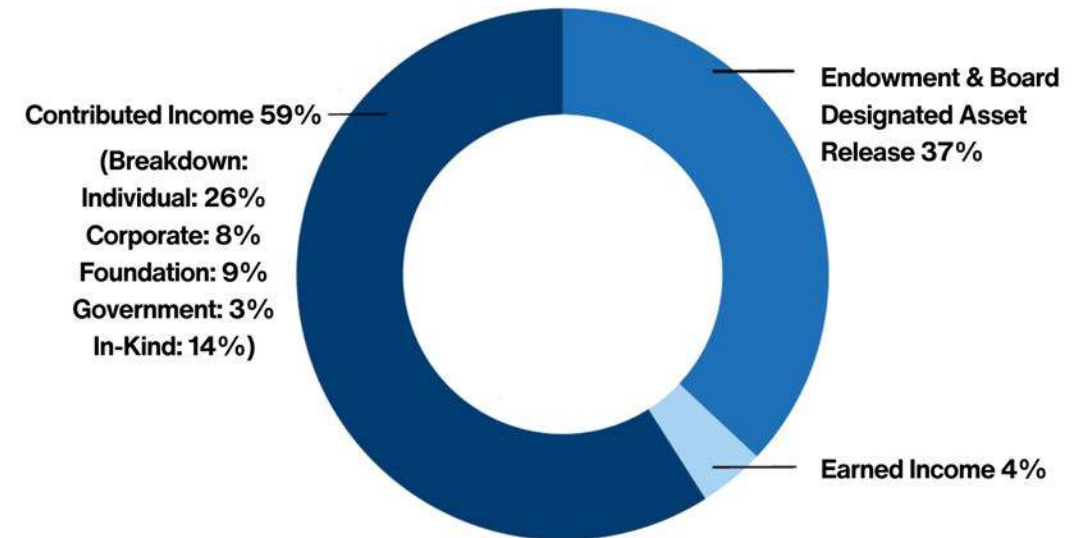
Please let us know if you plan to or have already named Caldera as a beneficiary in your estate plans. To learn more about making a meaningful legacy gift, contact us at [development@caldera.org](mailto:development@caldera.org).

*A recurring gift has even greater impact over time:*

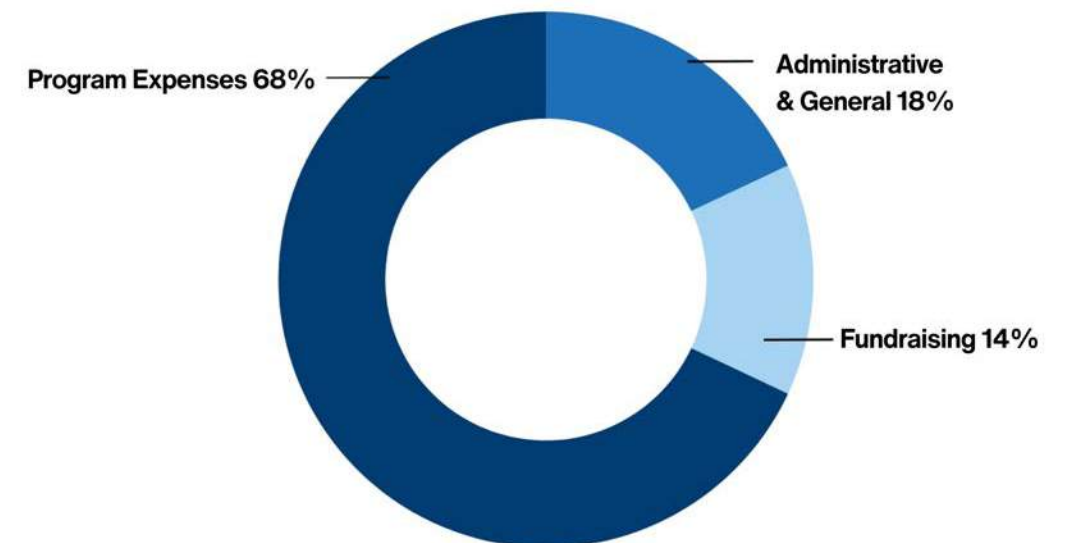
Monthly giving makes it easy to support Caldera year-round and helps ensure we have the steady support needed to sustain our work.

Please contact our Development Team at [development@caldera.org](mailto:development@caldera.org) for any questions.

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



Caldera's financial statements have been audited by independent certified public accountants and are available on our website.

Caldera is a 501(c)(3) organization; our tax identification number is 94-3235649.

NOTE: This year the Board of Directors approved a large endowment release to fund a longitudinal study of Caldera's impact with youth and to create the Apprentice Program to offer more opportunities for young people to engage with their own communities.

Caldera's land and facilities are operated and maintained under this established endowment, which was created by our founders to ensure that no significant costs associated with the stewardship of the land should detract from funds contributed for purposes of program delivery.

## Individual Donors

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Jennifer & David Murphy  
David & Leigh Myers  
Nancy Monsarrat & Pat Hellberg  
Michael & Laura Navarro  
Pamela Neferkara  
Linda Nelson  
Natalie Nelson  
Moana Newman & Scott Sanders  
Patrick Nistler & Andrea DeHart  
Adriana Noesi  
Ellen Nusblatt  
Linda Nussbaum  
Cate O'Hagan  
Kristin Ohlson  
Melissa Olin  
Robin Olson  
Patricia Orlando  
Breanne Oswill  
Sean & Nicole Oswill  
Angelina Overstreet  
Danielle Pak

Mark Palmen  
Virginia Parks  
Marc Patrick  
Casey Paxman  
Liz Perkin  
Harold Perlman  
David Perry  
Greg & Marie-Noelle Phillips  
Gina Pirotti  
Nancy Pitt  
Amy Polansky  
Betsy Priddy Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Lisa Prince  
Marc Pritchard  
Glendon Pullen & S. Diane Rynerson  
Elizabeth Quinn & Edward Schmidt  
Bonnie & Peter Reagan Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Clayton & Jacqueline Reckles  
Kyle Ritchey-Noll  
Caroline & Brad Roberts  
Kimberlee Roberts  
Ellen Robinette  
Linda Robinson  
Lidia Rose  
Susan Rosenkranz  
Valerie Rullman  
Marianne Ryder  
Karena Salmund  
Nicholas & Kyle Sawyer  
Holly Schnackenberg  
Gretchen Schnepfer & Darby Granberry  
Tanya Schroder  
Maura Sell  
Alexina Shaber  
Helen Shafran  
Temma Shoaf  
Robyn Shuey  
Alando & Morgan Simpson  
Darren Singer & Jennifer Kearsley  
Doug Skidmore & Heidi Beebe  
Adriana Sleigh  
Robert Speltz & Dwight Adkins  
Paul & Sidney Spezza  
Deborah Sposito  
Kit Stafford & Karl Goodwin  
Marna Stalcup & Tim Drilling  
Catherine Stimac  
Stoll Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Willadean & Jerry Stonelake  
Christa Stout  
Jason Strickland  
Rita Svanks

Whitney Swander  
Megan Sweeney & Adam Koller  
Erin Swientek  
Alison Taylor  
Louis Taylor  
Pamela Taylor  
Susan & Erik Taylor  
Johanna Thoeresz  
Mitchell Thomas  
Brian Thomson  
Eileen Threefoot  
Sawiga Tonsiengsom  
David & Enid Traisman  
Dawn Treanor  
Hannah Treuhaft & Marc Blackstein  
Victoria Trow  
Roseanna Tucker  
Shelby Uhden  
Kaari & Nick Vaughn  
Antonia Vee  
David & Christine Vernier  
Chabre Vickers  
Angelina Vieira & Justin Barocas  
Kristi Wachter  
Diane Walton  
Chrissy Wamsher  
Brian & Nikki Weaver  
Debra Weekley  
Sara Weinstein & Frank Piacentini  
Jay Wellik  
Jason & Kimberly White  
Bryan & Jessica Wieden  
Carolyn & Duke Wieden  
Katherine Wieden  
Priscilla Bernard Wieden  
Laura Wieden Blatner & Joe Blatner  
Sherrie Wieden White & Mike White  
Peter & Tamira Wiedensmith  
Shannon Wilkinson  
Sharon Wonderly  
Jessica Worthington  
Susan Wright  
Charlene Zidell  
The Kent Family Charitable Fund  
The Mehlum Family Foundation  
Fred W. Fields Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Wintz Family Foundation

# OUR SUPPORTERS WE APPRECIATE YOU

# Funder Spotlight: M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

## Supporting Research, Learning, and Youth Voice at Caldera

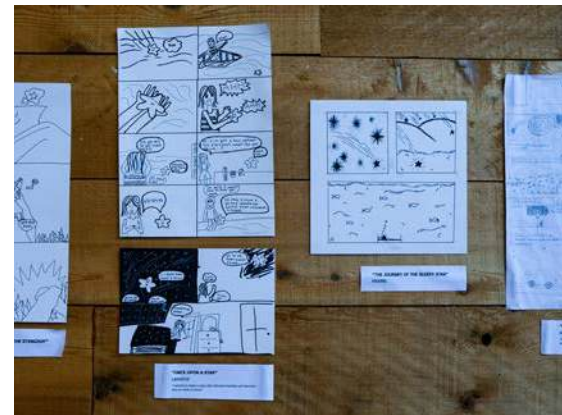
Thanks to the generous support of the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Caldera hired a new Research and Learning Specialist this year to strengthen how we understand and measure the impact of our programs.

This investment allows us to build more intentional learning systems—looking beyond attendance and uncovering outcomes to the deeper ways our young people grow and showing how creativity builds confidence, how connection sparks courage, and how time in nature inspires purpose.

Already, we're seeing powerful results: 92% of youth felt supported by at least one adult at Caldera, and 100% of our oldest learners said they could make a positive impact in their community. Through this work, we're learning how uniting creative expression and mentorship builds lasting confidence and community care.

These insights help us tell Caldera's story with greater depth and truth, capturing the "magic" that partners and families have long felt, but can now clearly see.

We're deeply grateful to the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for making this possible and for investing in the knowledge and learning that will sustain this work for years to come.



# The Founder's Circle

Caldera's Founder's Circle is more than a fund. It's a community of people—creatives, builders, and forward-thinkers—who believe in the power of creativity to change lives.

Each member's commitment keeps that belief alive and nurtures the spark that allows young people from underrepresented communities to discover their voices and explore their creativity. Together, members of the Founder's Circle honor Dan's legacy and carry it forward—one inspired idea, one empowered young person, and one act of generosity at a time.

Are you interested in learning more about the Founder's Circle?

Email us at [Development@caldera.org](mailto:Development@caldera.org)



## We Appreciate You!

The Alms for Arts Fund at the East Bay  
Community Foundation

Ascential Events (Cannes Lions)

Tom & Martha Blessington

Duncan and Cynthia Campbell Fund  
of Oregon Community Foundation

City Ranch Fund

Bill & Karen Davenport

Dynamic Consulting

Libra Forde

Nathan Goldberg

Goodman Giving Fund

JT Gregory

Hacker Architects

Tony Hopson, Sr. & Carla Hopson

Scott Howard & Lucy Kivel

Tonia Jones

Jon & Angela Kamen

Breanne Oswill

Sean Oswill & Nicole Oswill

Harold Perlman

Mark Palmen

Marc Patrick

Betsy Priddy Fund of Oregon  
Community Foundation

Marc Pritchard

Marcia H. Randall Foundation

Starview Foundation

Stoll Family Fund of Oregon Community  
Foundation

Megan Sweeney & Adam Koller

Johanna Thoeresz

Tides Foundation

Jason & Kimberly White

Bryan Wieden & Jessica Wieden

Katherine Wieden

Laura Wieden Blatner & Joe Blatner

Peter & Tamira Wiedensmith

Priscilla Bernard Wieden



# INTO THE FUTURE

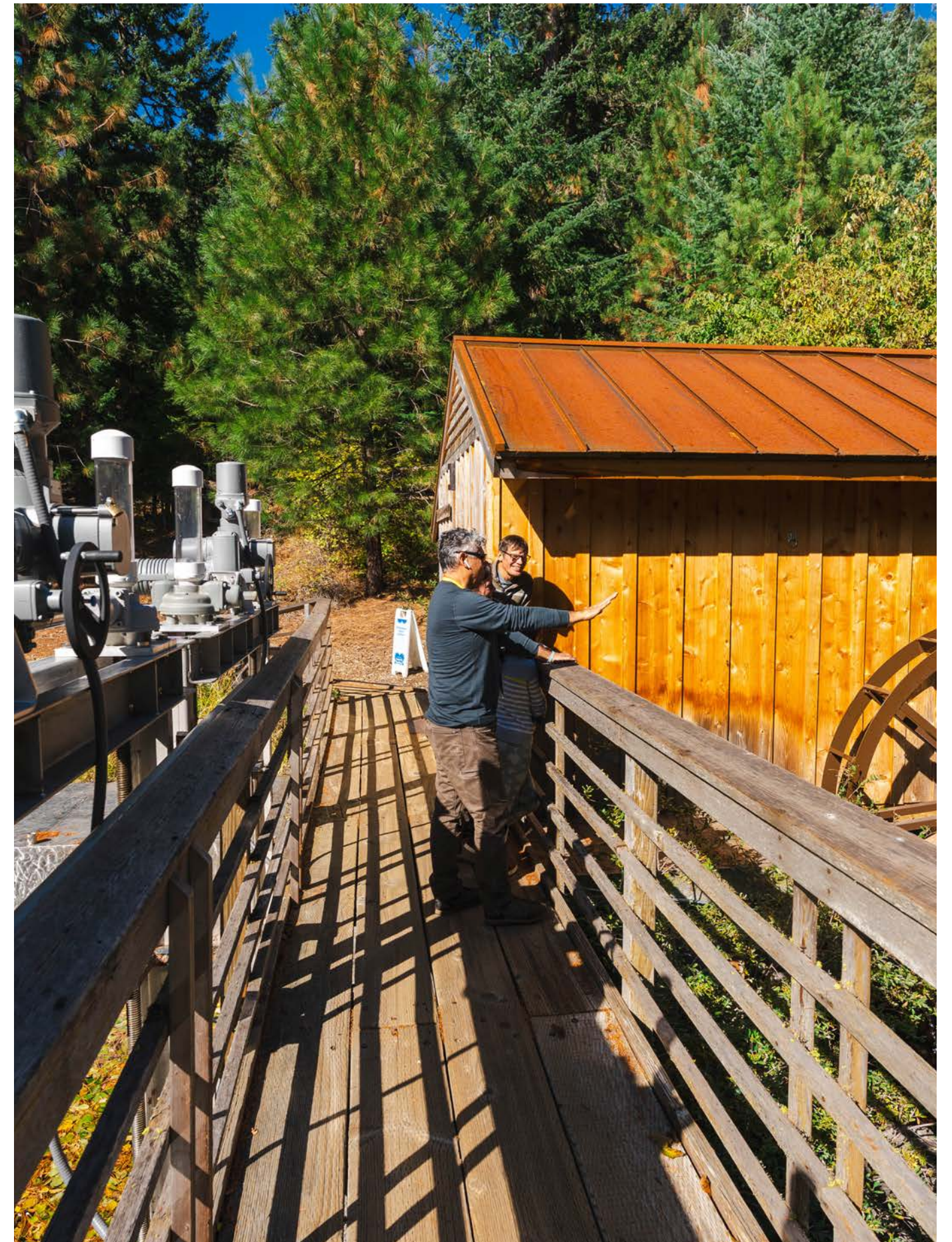
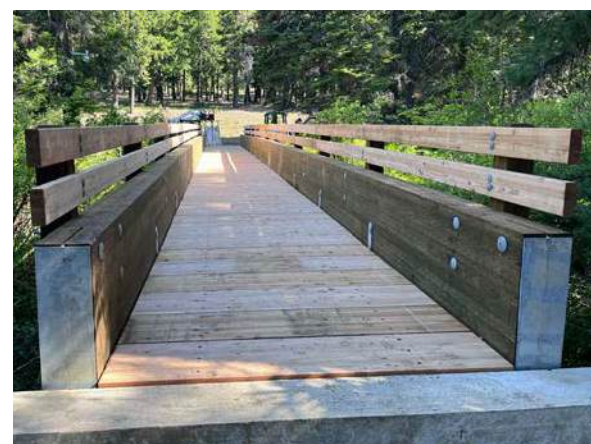
## *Infrastructure & Sustainability*

FY25 was a year of meaningful progress and long-term investment in Caldera's campus—work that strengthens both our environmental stewardship and the experience of all who visit the property.

Last year, we completed several major projects, including a new hydro turbine system that now generates renewable energy and feeds power back into the grid. We also celebrated the completion of a new pedestrian bridge over Link Creek, creating a safe and scenic connection between the east and west sides of campus. The bridge ties directly into the newly developed Link Creek Trail, expanding access to the land and water for artists, students, and guests alike.

Phase I of the Alpine Meeting Hall was also completed, with the full framing and exterior construction now in place—an exciting milestone toward a future gathering space designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and community. Additional enhancements included a full teardown and rebuild of the A-frame boardwalk, improving accessibility and safety across the cabins, and a new state-of-the-art AV system in the Hearth Building to support programs, performances, and presentations year-round.

Looking ahead, Caldera will continue investing in infrastructure and sustainability projects that preserve the natural beauty of the property while supporting the growing needs of our creative community.





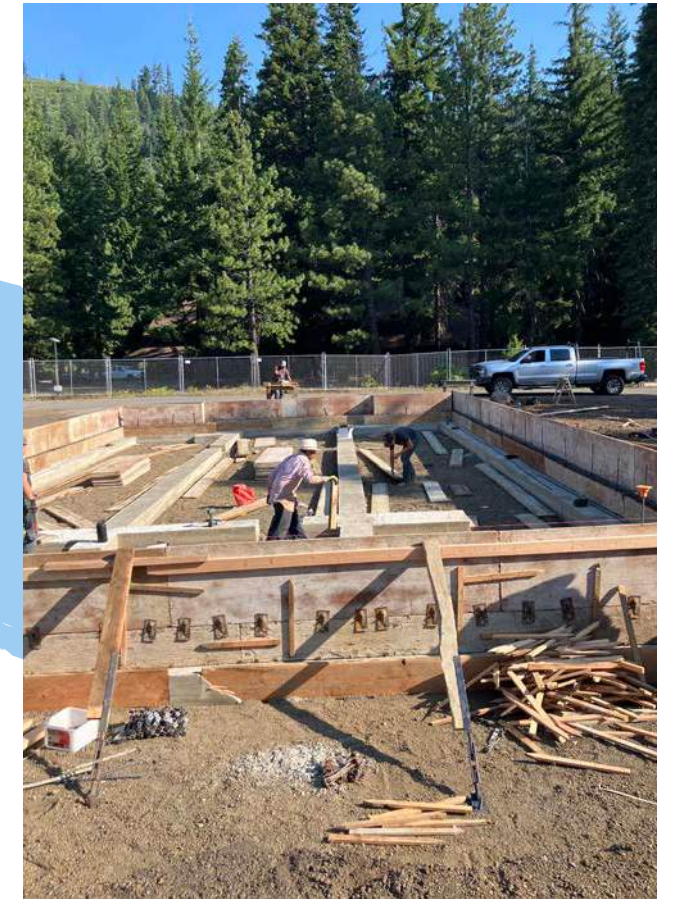
*Nearly three decades later, our facilities require critical upgrades to remain accessible, functional, and inspiring for the next generation.*

## *Into the Future: Alpine Project Completion*

Caldera is a cultural resource in Jefferson County that not only draws artists from all over the country, who spend money in the local community of Sisters when they are in residency, but also serves as a hub for creative iteration and planning for organizations like PICA (Portland Institute of Contemporary Art) and PNCA (Pacific Northwest College of Art), along with Bend Film and SFF Presents. These organizations annually hold offsites, conferences, and song camps, inspiring Caldera learners about all the aspects of creative practice. Additionally, Caldera middle school and high school learners spend 8 to 10 days every summer in this space for exploration as well as 2 to 3 weekends per year, during the school year. This demonstrates the integral role Caldera plays in supporting the local arts and cultural community.

As Caldera continues to serve more middle school and high school learners, the need for additional space for creative practice has grown. To meet this demand and expand programming with new impact partners, Caldera is also enhancing its existing facilities to provide the full Caldera experience to more people while building an ecosystem that inspires and supports artists, creatives, and cultural workers.

This year we dried-in the Alpine Project, meaning that by November 2024 it was wrapped and protected to sit quietly through the winter upon completing phase one. Just in time for last winter's epic snowfalls, the big green building, still affectionately called the Alpine, cast its new silhouette on the Caldera landscape.



The work of community partners Construction Management Services and Beebe Skidmore Architecture led to this moment so that by the time you read this report, the Alpine Project will be nearly complete, awaiting finishes by Hacker Architects from a large gift of interior design services.

The completion of the Alpine Project represents more than a construction plan—it is a community-driven initiative to strengthen Caldera's role as a regional hub for creativity, equity, and connection.

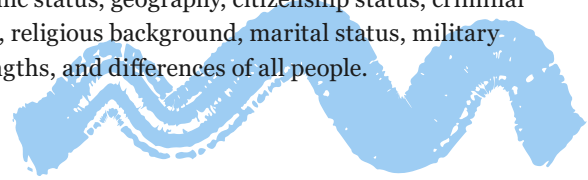
The space, with a beautiful fireplace and mirroring kitchen backsplash tile, stained plywood ceiling, and extra large windowed doors to let in southern light, will be officially named during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April 2026.



# Our People FY2025

Caldera celebrates the identities of all involved in Caldera, past and present. Caldera is an inclusive creative community that welcomes marginalized voices and historically excluded people and groups. We are an organization that strives to respect the race, ethnicity, ancestry, color, size, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, criminal background, religious background, marital status, military status, strengths, and differences of all people.

*“They have grown by understanding what type of person they want to be and how they plan on reaching that goal of being themselves honestly and freely.”*  
— Caldera learner’s parent



## Board of Directors: Fiscal Year 2025

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Bill Davenport,<br><i>Board Co-Chair</i>           | Jennifer Cole   |
| Priscilla Bernard Wieden,<br><i>Board Co-Chair</i> | John Dempsey    |
| Megan Sweeney,<br><i>Treasurer</i>                 | Joy Fowler      |
| Mary Normand,<br><i>Secretary</i>                  | Scott Howard    |
|  | Tonia Jones     |
|  | Corey Martin    |
|  | Kerani Mitchell |
|  | Kate Merrill    |
|  | Michael Navarro |
|  | Adriana Noesi   |
|  | Marc Patrick    |
|  | Jason White     |
|  | Bryan Wieden    |

## Caldera Staff: Fiscal Year 2025

- Andrea Castro-Martinez
- Kevin Ball
- Meg Ball
- Tasha Danner
- Melissa Dollar
- Guillermo Garcia
- Eloe Gill-Williams
- Carolyn Hernandez
- Courtney Hicks
- Kimberly Howard Wade, *Executive Director*
- Dillon Kolar
- Kira Lombardozzi
- Andy Motley
- Edgar Morales
- Amy Mutchler
- Moana Newman
- Danielle Pritchett
- Shira Ribakoff
- Karena Salmond
- Amber Viado
- Louis Vowell III
- Coty Weston

## Emeritus Board Members

- Myrlie Evans-Williams
- John Jay
- Dan Wieden, *Founding Director, 1945-2022*

Thanks to all the foundations and corporations that support Caldera through employee matching, grants, sponsorships, and gifts. Your continued support allows us to continue supporting and inspiring young people by awakening their creative voices.

### Corporate Giving & Sponsorships



### Government



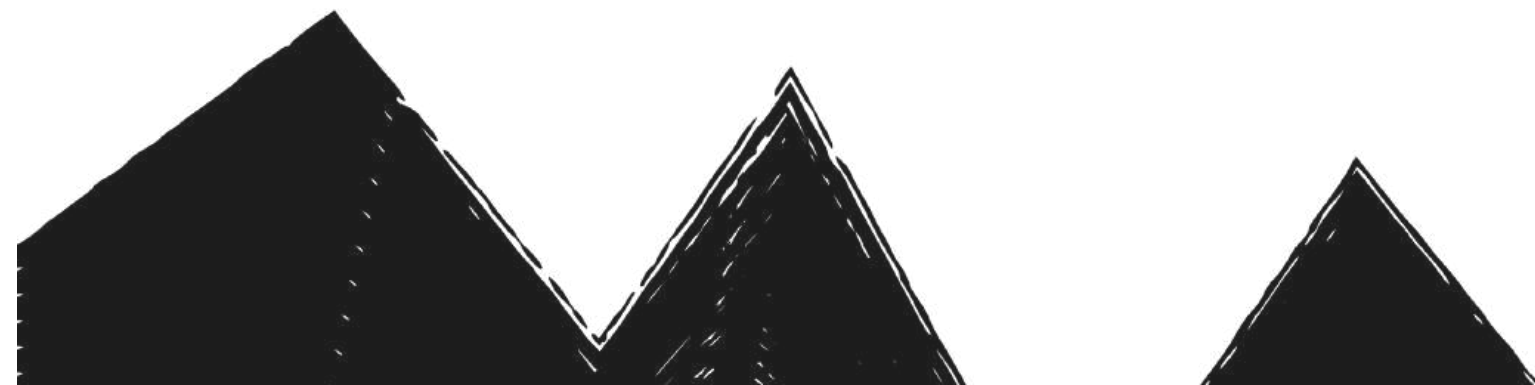
### Foundation



Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation, Mervyn Seldon Charitable Arts Trust, New England Foundation for the Arts, PGE Drive Change Fund, Stand Together Foundation, Trust Management Services LLC, Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation, Wieden Family Public Foundation

Portland Office: 224 NW 13th Avenue, Suite 304, Portland, OR 97209

Caldera: 31500 Blue Lake Drive, Sisters, OR 97759





CALDERA

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