

October 5, 2009

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Dear Klamath County Tourism Grant Program:

Years ago, I traveled over an hour to see an art exhibit by women survivors of trauma. It was the first of its kind, showing across the country in large cities. I was a new therapist at the time, grappling with the violence in our culture, my personal experiences, my clients' experiences and seeking any refuge, beauty, and hope I could find. This exhibit was life altering, for it demonstrated not only the depths of pain but the capacity of the human spirit. It transformed me and my work, encouraging me to draw beauty even from the worst situations. I would travel for such an experience again.

We live in difficult times, some would say oppressive, and every time we can offer a solution that probes into the depths of our human nature with respect and kindness, we make a difference. The Art 2 Heal project is such an event. This event has captivating speakers as well as artwork from ordinary people doing the best they can. This combination draws the kind of diverse audience we all hope for in any event, for it crosses all the typical demographics, opens us to the personal as well as the socio-cultural, and affords the opportunity to see things through the eyes of another.

I personally will be traveling to Klamath Falls for the event. I feel others will hold the same enthusiasm. I think this is a worthy project for any group to invest in.

Sincerely,

Connee L. Pike, M.S.