



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*The objective of this section is to highlight representative NAO nonprofit members of various sizes, geographic locations and subsectors to showcase the great work our members are doing across Oregon!*



Vernonia Hands on Art Center  
Vernonia, Oregon

[www.vernoniahandsonart.org](http://www.vernoniahandsonart.org)



### What does your organization do? Who does it serve?

As the only local 501(c)(3) with an arts and heritage mission, we are the umbrella organization for those disciplines in our community. We sponsor programs for the visual and performing arts, especially for children and young people; have special funds set aside for community theater and programs for developmentally disabled children; hold periodic events featuring local artists; and provide fiscal management of our local history museum and community garden.

### What's your organization's most recent accomplishment you'd like to share?

Each spring for the past nine years, we have sponsored an auction of cutout Masonite salmon that the high school art students creatively decorate and/or paint. A large percentage of the auction proceeds go towards the purchase of art supplies for the school to alleviate the perpetual budget shortage of funds for teachers' supplies. We are looking forward to our tenth auction in May.

### How has being an NAO member helped you succeed in furthering your organization's mission?

We have taken advantage of several training programs offered by NAO on grant writing, fiscal management and organizational development. We have used consulting services and information referral provided by NAO. We proudly display the NAO logo on our correspondence and note our affiliation in grant applications.

### Anything else you'd like to share?

As a very small organization staffed and managed completely by volunteers, our organization has morphed over the twenty two years of its existence. Originally established to provide an after school art program to help elementary school children cope with the devastation caused by a major flood in 1996, we have broadened our mission to embrace the visual and performing arts for children and adults, a program for developmentally disabled children, our history museum, and our community garden that focuses on the local tradition of growing one's own food. As volunteers join our ranks with passion for a particular program that falls under our arts and heritage mission, we offer support for those new offerings.

*Special thanks to Tobie Finzel,  
Treasurer, Vernonia Hands on Art Center*