

C4C Community Builders Meeting

April 2024 meeting notes

Attendees:

25 total attendees, 3 first-timers

- Kellen Klein, C4C Executive Director
- Sarah McDougall, C4C Board President
- Abhi Chaudhuri, Canoe Club Coworking general manager
- Nicole Woodson, Circle of Friends, Executive Director
- Dawn Cooper, Grants Specialist, Roundhouse Foundation
- Ana Varas, Arts Program Manager, Pine Meadow Ranch/Roundhouse Foundation
- Judy Smith, Age-Friendly Sisters Country
- Mark Gross, School of Ranch
- Cheryl Pellerin, Sisters Habitat board member
- Susan Cobb, Sisters City Council
- Debbi McCune, Living Well With Dementia Sisters
- Hannah Joseph, Seed to Table Program Director
- Shera, community volunteer
- Felix, community volunteer
- Sue Stafford, community volunteer
- Kris, community volunteer
- Tori, community volunteer
- Chris Laing, 100 Women Who Care Sisters and ombudsman at The Lodge
- Scott Humpert, Explore Sisters
- Ronni Duff, Three Sisters Historical Society
- Pat Leiser, Three Sisters Historical Society
- Robert Sposato, Jazz in Sisters, local music promoter
- Eric Strobel, EDCO
- Mark Gross, School of Ranch
- Adam Schweitzer, community volunteer and Canoe Club member

Remarks from Canoe Club Coworking

- <https://canooclubcoworking.com/>
- Abhi Chaudhuri, “General Manager”/operator of the space
- Idea of coworking in Sisters started for him three years ago when he moved here. He was working remotely with a 7 month old at home, and it was really challenging. He had been looking independently for a space, had tried out other spaces in Bend, but nothing was really ideal.
- Found this building. Owner is Drew, Abhi is collaborating with him to create the space.
- Trying to keep it accessible and inclusive for the community. Starting at \$150/month, which is dramatically cheaper than comparable spaces in Bend.
- Membership options will include:

- “Hot desks”/cafe area - \$150/month
 - You will also get monthly credits to use meeting rooms
- Reservable standing desks - \$350/month
- Private offices - start at \$750/month
- They also offer a separate conference room that can be reserved - by the hour; don’t have to be a member to rent it.
- Having a grand opening party on April 26th. More details to come soon!

Organizational Updates:

- C4C
 - [Civic Leadership Academy](#) starts next week with an inaugural cohort of 10 Sisters Country residents.
 - [Momentum Grant](#) recipients were just selected. The Selection Committee issued 10 grants to local organizations and individuals, totaling \$7000.
 - Join our [civility workshop](#) next Wednesday, April 17th from 5:30-7 PM!
 - Our spring [Community Forum](#) will focus on housing affordability. Free childcare is provided (registration required). We encourage folks to also join our [housing-focused book club](#) in the lead-up to the Forum.
 - Banners for graduating high school seniors will go up downtown on April 22nd!
- Seed to Table
 - Sisters Farmers Market is accepting applications, apply soon!
 - They’ve filled their produce shares for the year
 - Students will be coming out to the farm starting next week!
 - Farmers Market will start the first weekend in June
 - They will be offering the nonprofit booth program again – contact Willa Bauman - sistersfarmersmarket@gmail.com
- EDCO
 - Lots of new organizations and businesses starting up, including Sisters Makers and Canoe Club!
 - New baker moving here – Leaven & Love. Their only product is a gluten-free sourdough loaf. They’ll be baking out of a commercial kitchen above Sisters Depot. No storefront, but they’ll be delivering and online orders. TBD what their retail presence will look like.
 - Foxtail Bakery out of Bend has completed their lease at the Box Factory, and is now looking for a farm baking combo business model near Sisters outside of town.
- Adam Schweitzer
 - Been in Sisters for a year, in Redmond before that
 - First member of Canoe Club!
 - Helped start a digital marketing agency, still works for them + a few other enterprises
 - EDCO has been working with their company and had great early success with their digital marketing
- Shera and Felix, community volunteers

- Came last month, since then have started volunteering with Circle of Friends
- Felix hopes to soon start mentoring with the COPY program through DSCO. Helps mentor local youth with one or more incarcerated parents.
- Three Sisters Historical Society
 - Final fireside event coming up on April 21st, 2 PM at the fire hall – will be focused on Lazy Z Ranch, then and now.
 - All fireside events have been sold out, so come in early!
 - Started a new Women in Sisters history exhibit, check it out!
- Roundhouse Foundation/PMR
 - Third cohort of artists and scientists in residence will start next week
 - For each cohort they are having [public events](#). This month:
 - April 18th @ 5:30 – Minal Mistry, environmental scientist
 - April 20th 1-5 PM – Esperanza Cortez, artist, Memory Box Workshop
 - They also offer a lecture series throughout the year
 - May 2 6-7:30 PM – High Desert Partnership and Bird Alliance of Oregon about Harney Basin ecology
 - Just closed latest grants cycle. ~152 applications came in for this round! Lots of really inspiring ideas and groups.
 - Roundhouse is currently doing a lot of site visits for their grantees.
- Robert Sposato, Jazz in Sisters
 - Books all the music at Sisters Depot, lots of events coming up there in their new upstairs space called Frankies
 - Also runs Jazz in Sisters, trying to bring as much jazz music as possible to the community
 - Also offers a monthly jazz jam at Sisters High School
- Circle of Friends
 - Thanks to last Community Builders event, got 5 new volunteer mentors!
 - Annual Changing Futures fundraiser at Sisters Art Works on July 20th in the evening. Host is a local comedian out of Bend.
 - They're getting a clubhouse pet as an opportunity to offer a pet experience to kids who are houseless or might not otherwise get to have one at home.
- School of Ranch
 - Nonprofit that hires skilled community members to teach rural skills
 - Thank you C4C for all the connections!
 - Seed to Table intro led to several partnerships
 - Sisters Makers is running a "Power Saws for Fearless Women" workshop this Saturday!
 - Starting a new "How Do You Do?" neighbors helping neighbors event. First one will be at Pine Meadow Ranch in July
 - Redmond Spokesman newspaper and School of Ranch doing event called "I Never Thought of It That Way," in the fall. Idea is getting folks to get together and discuss different perspectives on land use issues.

- Offer – they run lots of ads on Facebook and Instagram, they have extra slots. If you have something you want to promote, let Mark know and he can help run them.
- Ask – they're looking for someone to take over workshop categories. Someone who can design and help plan workshops within a key category.
- Age Friendly Sisters Country
 - Fortunate to have a lot of prospective Action Teams coming in right now, are having to make some difficult decisions about which to take on!
 - If you're interested in fiscal sponsorship for your idea, talk to them
 - They are hosting a singalong this Saturday. Goal is to bring together community through singing. Doors open at 6 PM, free but donations welcome!
 - Also want to highlight the theater production of Tuesdays With Morris at the same time on Saturday at the fire hall.
- Cheryl Pellerin, Romeo's Joy
 - Left last month's Community Builders meeting, immediately went home and drew up the business plan
 - Idea is fighting social isolation and those
 - Cheryl is a certified pet therapist with her dog Romeo, and at the same time her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's
 - She realized the value of pet therapy, but also that not everyone can handle a pet. So she purchased a robotic dog for her mother. The animals respond to touch, light, etc., they're very interactive. She saw her mother come to life with it.
 - Romeo has since passed, so this initiative is in honor of him. They will be offering no-cost robotic pets to those in the community vulnerable to social isolation or experiencing mental health decline.
 - The project is finalizing their Action Team status with AFSC; they just received a Momentum Grant from C4C, too!
 - If you know anyone in the community who might be in need, please let Cheryl know!
- Susan Cobb, Sisters City Councilor
 - Tonight the City Council is meeting with the County Commissioners. Starts at 4:45
 - Susan attended the Ranger District presentation last night
 - If you are in need of old wood, you can get some from the Ranger District
 - The new Ranger Station will have a conference room available to the community for free by reservation, seating over 100 people
 - Was good to learn more about all the Forest Service does; not just tree maintenance/fire prevention, but also stream health, ecosystem protection and research, roads management, trail maintenance, supporting the houseless
- Living Well With Dementia Sisters
 - New nonprofit focused on dementia and Alzheimer's awareness in Sisters Country

- Have a “Mini McGinty Conference” on May 13th in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association. Focus is on alzheimer's and dementia awareness, support for caregivers, panelists and keynote speakers.
- 37.5% of Sisters Country is 65+. 9.2% of the population 65+ in Deschutes County has been diagnosed with some form of dementia. A big focus of LWWDS’ work will be on support for care partners.
- Congrats to LWWDS on a Momentum Grant to support their local workshops and events.
- Explore Sisters
 - Destination Management org for the city, looking to promote the city through a tourism lens
 - Launched their website a few months ago; check out the “Industry” link at the bottom. There are updates about grant opportunities, etc.
 - Launched their first coordinated marketing campaign for the city.
 - Explore Sisters has developed newly branded banners that’ll replace the chamber ones around town.
 - Bringing back an information center in partnership with Sisters Makers. It will go in the vestibule of that building. Will have physical and digital information.
 - Going to start doing volunteer recruitment; looking to have information services at some of the bigger events in town, would need volunteers for that.
- 100 Women Who Care Sisters
 - Had first meeting last month with 75 attendees! Now already up to 83.
 - Very simple concept for collective donation to an organization. Their first grant was \$7,500 to Harmony Farm Sanctuary
 - Ask – because everything is volunteer-run, they’d love to have a simple website. If anyone has skills to help build one for the group, let them know!