

TOWER
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PRESENTS

**APRIL
21 & 22**

**B E N D
OREGON**

stage 2023
the change PNW

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A Visit Bend Project

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO STAGE THE CHANGE!



Welcome to our second annual Stage the Change Conference.

We believe you will be motivated and changed by what you hear, see, and talk about this weekend. We are already inspired by your commitment to make the world a better place.

Please set a goal to meet new people while you're here. Connections you make during this conference can evolve into collaborations. Become co-creators of art and co-leaders in transforming the world.

It's been a privilege connecting with the region's arts leaders and change-makers to plan this conference, and to have them share their expertise and experiences with you.

At the end of the conference, you'll receive an evaluation form. Please take the time to complete it and give us your honest feedback.

Thank you for participating. And remember – Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.

— the Staff and Board of the Tower Theatre Foundation

STAGE THE CHANGE - NEW YORK



Our 2nd Stage the Change, PNW!

As we approach our 10th Anniversary of Stage the Change, New York, we are so delighted to once again extend our mission to the west coast.

Our students and educators continue to make a profound influence in our communities as we combine our forces from east to west to be a catalyst for change. Continuing to take this step together in Bend, our vision is to build a foundation for diverse, inclusive communities where young artists are empowered with freedom of thought and encouraged to express their truth.

It is a privilege to watch our arts voices rise in the Pacific Northwest and see our vision come to light with your globally-minded, genuine and passionate community of artists. Thank you Sharon Maier-Kennelly, Dani Wyeth and the Tower Theatre for your insightful work and commitment to making this event a reality. Thanks to all the artists, presenters, educators, and new PNW "Stage-the-Change" who join the movement and ensure that our arts voices will be heard!!

— Ruthie Pincus, Executive Director, Stage the Change NY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We try to lift boundaries when acknowledging the lands on which our conference is held.

In Bend, Oregon we are gathered on the native lands the Northern Paiute, the Wasco, and the Warm Springs tribes, which now comprise The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

We further acknowledge the many tribes and bands who call Oregon their ancestral territory, including: Burns Paiute; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw; Confederated Tribes of Cow Creek Lower Band of Umpqua; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation; Coquille Tribe; and Klamath Tribes.

We continue to explore and deepen our knowledge of our terrain and its history and work together and collaboratively with people indigenous to the lands.



¡Juntos Avanzamos! Together We Thrive

STAGE THE CHANGE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 21, 2023		Location
3 pm – 5 pm	Welcome packets/Registration	Tower Theatre Lobby
5 pm – 6:45 pm	Group Welcome, Orientation, Ice-Breaker	Tower Theatre
7 pm – 8 pm	Keynote: Kimberly Howard Wade	Tower Theatre
8 pm – 9 pm	Dessert Reception: Sponsored by Bonta	Tower Theatre Lobby
Saturday, April 22, 2023		Location
8:30 am – 9:20 am	Showcase Rehearsals	Tower Theatre
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Student Showcases	Tower Theatre
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Lunch: OSU-Cascades	OSU-Cascades
11:30 am – 5 pm	Workshops Workshop 1: 11:30 am – 1 pm Workshop 2: 1:30 pm – 3 pm Workshop 3: 3:30 pm – 5 pm	OSU-Cascades
5 pm – 6 pm	Dinner Break	On Your Own
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Keynote: Mandy Gonzalez	Tower Theatre
8 pm – 9:30 pm	Live at the Tower: Mandy Gonzalez in Concert	Tower Theatre

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

	Art & Racism	Equity, Inclusion & Art	LGBTQAI2S+ Equality	Adversity Meets Innovation
Time / Location	OSU-Cascades	OSU-Cascades	OSU-Cascades	OSU-Cascades
11:30 am – 1 pm	The Actors Toolbox Marcus LeGrand	Making Theatre that Meets the Moment Willow Norton	Breaking the Mold by Dismantling 'Shoulds' John Kish	Your Voice & Expression: Your Words are Powerful Brent Florendo
1:30 pm – 3 pm	Race as it relates to Art: Fires In The Mirror William Earl Ray, PassinArt	A 'Fresh' Approach... James Miles	Discovering Your Inner Queen! Lylac	Taiko Empowerment: An Otherness Workshop Unit Souza
3:30 pm – 5 pm	Fate of Understanding MOSley WOtta	Expressing Equity and Inclusion through Movement #instaballet	Power & Movement Samuel Hobbs, PUSH/FOLD	Fusing Music and Mental Health Tools Needed for Everyday Life Maiah Wynne

KEYNOTERS



KIMBERLY HOWARD WADE

Kimberly is the Executive Director of Caldera Arts, harnessing the power of creativity to make lasting cultural and social change. Previously she led PGE Project Zero, Portland General Electric's social impact initiative to empower the next generation to create cleaner, greener, more equitable communities and served as the Trust manager of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

She currently serves as chair of the Oregon State Board of Education; she also serves on the board of directors for Portland Playhouse, and the Center for Performance and Civic Practice. In addition, Kimberly is an accomplished actress. She holds an MFA in acting from Columbia University and has taught theater at Walla Walla University.



MANDY GONZALEZ

Mandy Gonzalez (Original Broadway cast of *In the Heights*; Angela Schuyler in *Hamilton* on Broadway). Mandy is also an author—she recently published her Young Adult novel series, *FEARLESS*, published by Simon and Schuster.

In her quest to create positive change, Mandy is the proud founder of #FearlessSquad—a social media movement for inclusiveness and positivity. #FearlessSquad connects people around the world, encourages them to be their best selves, and helps them empower each other.

THANK YOU

Ruthie Pincus & Stephanie Turner, Stage the Change New York

Waypoint Hotel, Hotel Partner

OSU-Cascades, Event Partner

Bonta Natural Artisan Gelato, Dessert Sponsor

Lisa Bell and Makayla Scott, Photographers

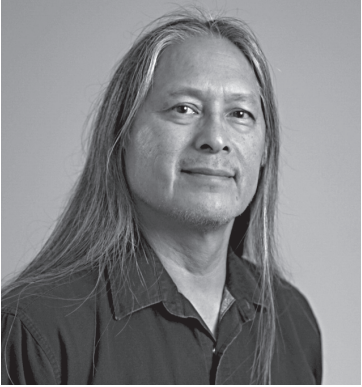
Aleta Nissen, Showcase Emcee

Dyan Roth, Graphic Design

Sisters Folk Festival, Student Support

Sisters High School Choir & Rick Johnson

FACILITATORS



BRENT FLORENDO

Brent is of Wasco/Yakama/Warm Springs decent. He is a traditional storyteller, fancy dancer, and drummer as well as an actor, playwright, and musician. He is the Native Nations Liaison Instructor and Native American Studies Director at Southern Oregon University. Brent also leads the Konaway Niika Tillicum Youth Programs. Brent enjoys recruiting, teaching and working with Native youth and the community at large.



SAMUEL HOBBS

Samuel Hobbs is a dance presenter, educator, and multi-disciplinary artist in Dance, Art, Film, and Music; and is the Artistic Director, composer-choreographer, and filmmaker for the dance company push/FOLD. Fascinated by abstract storytelling, Samuel's works are known for their unique athletic movement, immersive moodscapes, and original, evocative sound scores, centering themes of Power and Identity. Samuel's career began in 2005, teaching dance since 2008 and composing and choreographing professionally since 2014. Samuel was a university track athlete studying Math and Computer Science at the University of Oregon and Western Oregon University, graduating in 2007 with a B.S. in The Arts, studying Music, Illustration, Sculpture, Dance, and Computer Programming. In 2021, Samuel made their international debut of choreography at the Dancing on the Edge Festival in Vancouver, BC, and the International Festival of Contemporary Dance in Mexico City. This 2022/23 season marks major milestones and partnerships for Samuel, premiering several new works and commissions, notably a world premiere with Oregon Ballet Theatre's main company.



ANTONIO ANACAN, #INSTABALLET

Originally from Hawaii, Antonio completed his ballet training at The San Francisco School of Ballet and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. He went on to perform professionally with Eugene Ballet for 6 years, during which time he co-founded interactive performing group, #instaballet. He is currently the Artistic Director of #instaballet as well as a member of the IATSE 675 Stagehand Union.



SUZANNE HAAG, #INSTABALLET

Suzanne Haag is a former ballet dancer with The Hartford Ballet, Indianapolis Opera, Nevada Ballet Theatre, Ballet Idaho, National Choreographers Initiative, Drop Dance Collective, and Eugene Ballet. Currently she is the Resident Choreographer of the Eugene Ballet (EB), co-founder of the interactive performing group, #instaballet, and an ABT® Certified Teacher. Haag strives to make the often-esoteric world of ballet accessible to current audiences. Her work is rooted in the classical form with a grounded human element in both her narrative and non-narrative work. In addition to creating new work for EB, Suzanne's work has been performed at The National Choreographer's Initiative, The McCallum Theatre's Choreography Festival, The University of Oregon, The University of Utah, The National Dance Institute (NM), Texas Christian University, and Dance Lab New York's More to the Pointe Lab (Chautauqua, NY) where she made work specifically for male, male-identifying and non-binary dancers in pointe shoes.



JOHN KISH

Horticulturist, actor, and business owner Kish is often found running his indoor plant shop, Somewhere That's Green, located in the Bend Central District. He founded the shop in 2018 and has grown it to great success. This year, he launched "The Greenhouse Cabaret ", a small pocket theater within the plant shop with its inaugural performance, "Hedwig and the Angry Inch ". John has starred in numerous productions off-Broadway in NYC, Portland, and Bend, as well as running his own production company. He is also known as the "plant queen", Bend's main plant-themed drag queen persona, Fertile Liza! John grew up in a small town in Oregon but had great aspirations for more. He graduated from Oregon State University in 2011 and from Circle in the Square Theater School in NYC in 2013.



MARCUS LEGRAND

LeGrand has loved the arts since his youth, performing with the Uwharrie Players traveling around North Carolina. His entertainment journey led him to perform in numerous community theatre projects as a student at University of Washington-Seattle and while living in Southern California. Most recently, he has worked with BEAT Children's Theatre teaching and developing summer classes for Central Oregon students. He is Co-Chair of The Father's Group's After-School Program, a Director of the Bend-La Pine School Board, the Afrocentric Student Program Coordinator at Central Oregon Community College, and an active supporter of his two theatre kids. Marcus believes that diversity and inclusion is the catalyst for communities to understand that inclusion matters. He is the Marie Lamford Charitable Foundation award winner for 2022.



LYLAC

Meet Lylac a drag performer/ wig stylist/ and artist from Salem, OR! She started performing as a drag queen nearly 7 years ago and has gone on to perform all over the Pacific Northwest and even Alaska. Her wigs have been on performers all over the US including Queens from Rupaul's Drag Race and an Emmy winning dancer. She's excited to bring her passion for the art of drag to this fun interactive workshop!



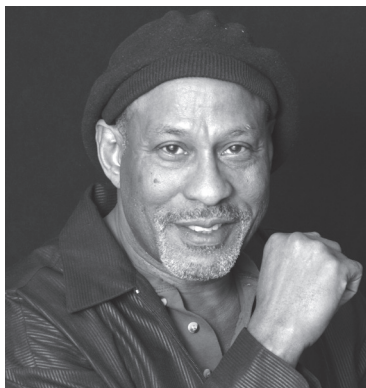
JAMES MILES

James Miles worked as an educator in the New York City public schools for almost 20 years prior to moving to Seattle in 2016. An Assistant Professor at Seattle University, James is also the Executive Director of Third Stone, the nonprofit that operates Bumbershoot, the beloved music and arts festival in Seattle. James previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of MENTOR Washington and the Executive Director of Arts Corps, prior to that. Originally from Chicago, Miles has worked internationally as an artist and educator, and his work has been featured in magazines, books, on podcasts, in newspapers. Miles is a Mayoral Appointee to the Seattle Arts Commission, and on the advisory board of SXSW EDU. His acclaimed TedXTalk focuses on his mission to narrow achievement gaps using the "arts as a tool to navigate the systems of educational inequity. Learn more about James at www.freshprofessor.com



WILLOW NORTON

Willow Jade Norton (she/her) is an Oregon-based theatre director, arts administrator, teacher and arts advocate focused on new work development and socially engaged art. Willow's work is driven to find the intersection of exquisite theatricality, narrative that meets the moment, and an invitation to build community. Willow has directed projects in Seattle, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, Los Angeles, Corvallis, and Eugene. Willow is currently Executive Director of The Alliance for Jewish Theatre, a network of international Jewish theatres and theatre artists supporting each other through information-sharing, conferences, and virtual programs. Co-Founder and Resident Director for Moderate Woo, a feminist theatre collective, where Willow has made a commitment to focus on intersectional inclusion, antiracism, and disrupting systems of oppression on and off stage. As a Teaching Artist, Willow has worked at Oregon Contemporary Theatre among others. Willow is a Certified Teaching Artist for Tectonic Theater Project's Moment Work Technique.



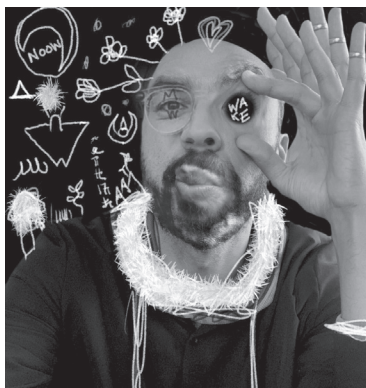
WILLIAM EARL RAY

William (Bill) Earl Ray is a Director/Actor with 45 years of experience. Directing credits: *Lonely Planet*, *No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs (The No Play)*, *King Liz*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *A Raisin in the Sun & Having Our Say*, and *A Family Thing*, *Beehive*, *The Gospel at Colonius*, *Fires in the Mirror*, *A Song for Coretta*, *A Lovesong for Miss Lydia*, *The Heiress*, *Sea Marks*, *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*, *Lilies of the Field*, and others. Some of William's acting credits would include *The Whipping Man*, *Mastharold and the Boys*, *The Meeting*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Misery*, *God's Favorite*, *Two Trains Running*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Dirty Work*, *Cobb*, *Miss Evers Boys*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Simply Heavenly*, *Bank Job*, *Amen Corner* and others. TV and Film credits include *The Tuskegee Airmen*, *The Glass Café*, *Cadillac Ranch*, *The Temp*, *Dr. Giggles*, *Terror in the Towers*, *Better Off Dead*, *Walker Texas Ranger*, *Con Alma*, and *Metal* admitted to the Austin Film Festival, the Portland Film Festival and the Miami Black Film Festival. William is a member of Actors Equity, Screen Actors Guild, and a graduate of Evergreen State.



UNIT SOUZOU

Unit Souzou was founded in 2014 by Co-directors Michelle Fujii and Toru Watanabe, relentless innovators at the forefront of a growing artistic movement within the taiko community. 'Souzou' can be written in three ways meaning 'creation', 'imagination', or 'noisy', alluding to a force by which new ideas are born and take shape in the world. Inspired by these words, the mission of Unit Souzou is to build creative, imaginative works while honoring the history and roots of the taiko art form. The core of Unit Souzou's artistic voice is personal and authentic, sound shaped and inspired by form and by movement. The essence of Unit Souzou is an expressive blend of taiko and Japanese folk dance, building new traditions for evolving communities. In addition to creating groundbreaking professional theatrical works, Unit Souzou is committed to sharing taiko through community performances and collaborations, public classes for adults and youth, and education programs. www.unitsouzou.com



MOSLEY WOTTA

MOSley WOTTA is a legacy creative. His professional career spans multi decades + mediums including, writing painting and music. His curriculum vitae highlights: Creative Laureate for the city of Bend Oregon, Oregon Feilds Fellow, Oregon Humanities Conversation project leader + Bridging Oregon facilitator, Art in Oregon "Black Matter" Visual Artist, Salem Art Association Fellow, Slam poetry Champion for the State of Oregon, NPR, OPB ,TED X, The NBA and several other three letter acronyms. His works focuses on making positive connections between the negative space of perceived difference.



MAIAH WYNNE

An award-winning singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, Maiah delivers powerful and universally resonant lyrics with a hauntingly beautiful voice. In addition to finalizing her first full length album, Maiah's currently collaborating on "Envy of None" with Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Alex Lifeson of Rush, and Juno Award winner Andy Curran. Her numerous accolades include winning The Burl Audio Covid19 Songwriting Contest (2020), the International Music from the Moon Contest (2019), the Claim to Fame International Song Contest (2018), HATCH Groundbreaker Award for Music (2017) and Claim2Fame (2016). She was featured on NPR's All Songs Considered (2019), at Sundance (2016), SXSW (2017), and in-studio on KEXP (2018). She has opened for Lucinda Williams, Dave Mathews, Tanya Tucker, Indigo Girls and Brandi Carlile. With a passion for making a difference, Maiah has supported Arts Fund Seattle, Black Resilience Fund, First Aid Arts, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA, NAACP, UNCUT Youth Programs, and WaterWatch.

WORKSHOPS

ART & RACISM

The Actors Toolbox

Facilitator: Marcus LeGrand
OSU-Cascades: 11:30 am – 1 pm

Presentation, clarity, and creative communication... are the gifts of an actor. These skills allow actors to tell stories that can touch the heart and change the world. Actors are taught to use their "toolbox" - their face, body, and voice - to command the attention of an audience and bring them along on a journey. Drawing on the tools of an actor, the exercises in this workshop will teach students to improve stage presence, projection, and script memorization. Today, performers will practice how they can adapt the actor's toolbox to help them become better communicators and better able to share their own messages with the world.

Race as it Relates to Art: Fires In the Mirror

Facilitator: William Earl Ray, PassinArt
OSU-Cascades: 1:30 pm – 3 pm

There are three sides to every story: yours, mine and the truth. Following the deaths of a Black American boy and a young Orthodox Jewish scholar in the summer of 1991, underlying racial tensions in the nestled community of Crown Heights, Brooklyn erupted into civil outbreak. *Fires in the Mirror* was Anna Deavere Smith's groundbreaking response. Brought to life from a series of interviews with over fifty members of the Jewish and Black communities, the Drama Desk award-winning work translated their voices verbatim, and in the process revolutionized the genre of documentary theatre.

Fate of Understanding

Facilitator: MOsley Wotta
OSU-Cascades: 3:30 pm – 5 pm

How to use personal experience to create authentic voice. This intuition driven workshop will engage care-centered risk-taking methods towards essentializing revolution as daily practice. This workshop is for folks who draw doodles on standardized

test, talk to the moon, and can't sit still in class. We will be working in multi mediums including writing, painting, ancestry, muse, and the angels which predate the construct of religion. ... basically we prolly gonna make a mess, laugh a lot and encourage each other to be ourselves ... whatever that means.

EQUITY, INCLUSION & ART

Making Theatre That Meets the Moment

Facilitator: Willow Norton
OSU-Cascades: 11:30 am – 1 pm

For actors, playwrights, directors, activists, storytellers, & those interested in saying something through theater. This ensemble generating workshop will explore the making of original performance works around themes and questions that hold meaning to the group. Borrowing from contemporary and classical ensemble generating theater techniques, participants will explore how to use the elements of theatre to craft a work that meets the moment.

A Fresh Approach....

Facilitator: James Miles
OSU-Cascades: 1:30 pm – 3 pm

There have been dramatic shifts in education since schools first opened in the USA in 1647. From educational priorities to demographics to technology, schoolhouses look wildly different than the original design. While innovation catapulted schools into the 21st century, it has minimized the importance of learning connected to the arts, critical thinking, social emotional learning, and civics, causing our youth to suffer. It's time for new approach to education. The pandemic has presented us with the possibility to reimagine education and build a system where every student feels seen, heard, and valued, and where creativity is cultivated. Though we haven't fully capitalized on that opportunity yet, our time is coming. It involves a shift in mindset that allows us to be more creative, compassionate, and critical. And it all boils down to just two words: Hip Hop.

Expressing Equity and Inclusion Through Movement

Facilitator: #instaballet
OSU-Cascades: 3:30 pm – 5 pm

Sometimes, words fail us. Movement helps us express what cannot be captured through a written narrative. Join us as we create together, learning how to communicate and listen through movement (no prior dance experience is required!). We'll explore movement that expresses the concepts of equity and inclusion, with a group brainstorm around what those concepts mean to us as individuals and a community. We'll work together to express that dialogue through movement. Basic choreographic techniques that can be paired with movement will be shared and applied, and students will work in small groups to explore communicating their thoughts and ideas through dance. We'll conclude by combining individual and small group creative content into one, larger group work, sharing our movement dialogue with each other.

LGBTQAI2S+ EQUALITY

Power & Movement
Facilitator: Samuel Hobbs of PUSH/FOLD
OSU-Cascades: 11:30 am – 1 pm

This workshop develops the application of physical power in movement and reinforces efficient and sustainable practices for dancers of various levels. Through guided movements, weight-sharing, and phrase work, we build on our understanding of the impact our posture plays in enhancing confidence on and off the stage, creating clear messages with our bodies, and strengthening our technique in all styles of movement. Participants should expect mid to high-level movement and working with partners of varied genders and sizes.

Discovering Your Inner Queen!

Facilitator: Lylac
OSU-Cascades: 1:30 pm – 3 pm

Take a dive into the art of drag in this workshop hosted by Lylac. This workshop will take you through the basics of drag from creating a

persona, makeup, styling, and performing! So come ready to learn and participate in a interactive experience that'll help bring out that inner diva we all have inside.

Breaking the Mold by Dismantling 'Shoulds'

Facilitator: John Kish

OSU-Cascades: 3:30 pm – 5 pm

Through theater, John found his voice and himself. Learn about some of the transformative events that shaped John as an artist and apply basic skills to break out from your mold! We will spend our time reinventing our chosen song or monologue with different aspects that make you comfortable as a performer. These simple tasks of song interpretation, setting objectives, choosing an outfit, applying music, or wearing the right lip color, can help any artist feel their best as themselves and as their character. Auditions alone can be daunting with rules, self-shame, and "shoulds" however being your true authentic self makes you stand out and perform your best. If you feel stuck or like you are recreating a character, mix it up to make it your own genuine portrayal. Why fit the mold given, when theater is the epitome of breaking those molds.

ADVERSITY MEETS INNOVATION

Finding Your Voice and Expression: Your Words Are Powerful

Facilitator: Brent Florendo

OSU-Cascades: 11:30 am – 1 pm

Through Indigenous storytelling and stage work you will learn the perspective of the Oral Tradition and how it affects your understanding of communication and the power of your words. Receive guidance and advice that is essential when facing and addressing adversity.

Taiko Empowerment: An Otherness Workshop

Facilitator: Unit Souza

OSU-Cascades: 1:30 pm – 3 pm

Taiko (Japanese drumming) is an energetic fusion of sound, movement and spirit, and has been a loud and proud voice to express stories of identity and heritage. Through a rhythmic journey, we will share stories through body, rhythm, and the powerful beats of taiko engaging in questions of identity and belonging – how we identify ourselves and how we perceive others. How have I been othered? How have I othered myself? How have I othered others?

Fusing Music and Mental Health Tools Needed for Everyday Life

Facilitator: Maiah Wynne

OSU-Cascades: 3:30 pm – 5 pm

This workshop is an engaging presentation of practical mental health tools that can be employed easily to each student's day. Maiah will share everyday tools that she's learned from firstaidarts.org that can help calm, uplift, and regulate in times of need. You will leave with calm in your heart and practical mental health tools at your fingertips.



Knife River NW

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Stage the Change participants!**



KNIFE RIVER

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www.deschutes.org

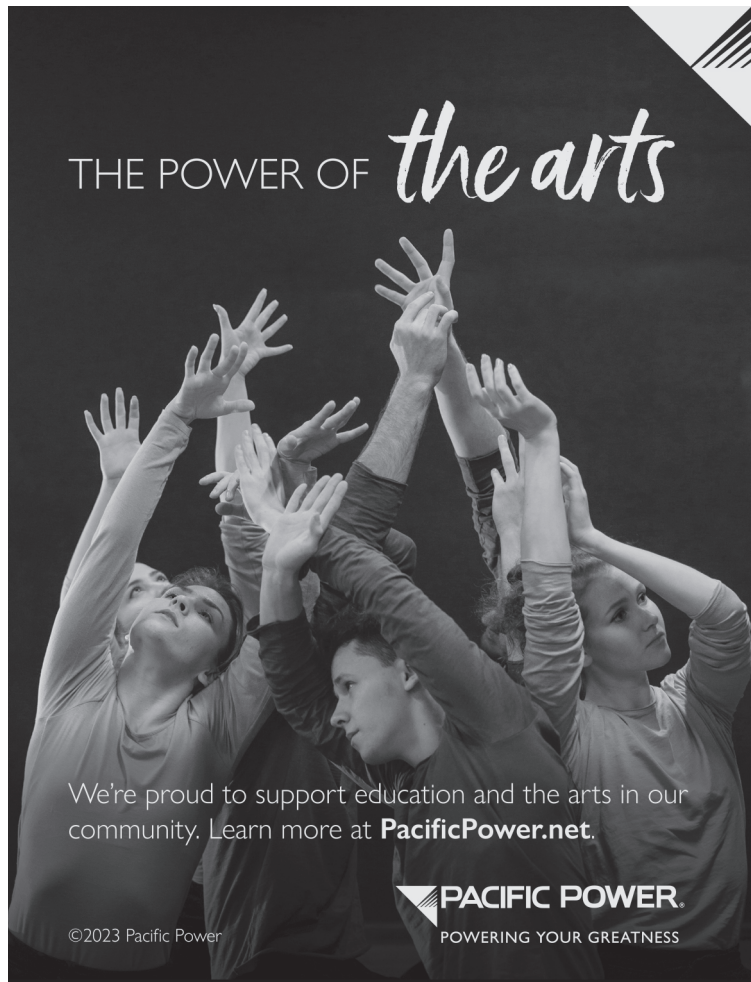
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