

A History of FRAA:

2013:

FRAA was conceptualized by a group of local artists who were inspired by a presentation on the economic impact of art on communities. FRAA is honored to still have some founding members today. For 10 months the group discussed how an organization could support all the arts. From painting to spoken word, to fabric arts, public art, to name a few.

January 1, 2014:

FRAA was born as a non-profit, with a Mission and Vision statement and its own set of By-Laws.

September 2015 - October 2015:

The FRAA Art Center on Maple Street opened its gallery doors. FRAA's customer accessibility sky rocketed; new members joined. In this larger space, FRAA expanded as a meeting place, multi-disciplinary classroom, and programs such as Plein Air painting and open studios were born.

September 18, 2015:

Through grant funding and collaboration with The Port of Siuslaw Manager, the first piece of Public Art was installed. Local artist Kat Cunningham won the call to artists with her piece "Florence Scenic Column." Located on the Port Boardwalk, it stands in tribute to the beauty of the area, the artist, and the efforts of FRAA to promote Public Art in the community.

Note: Over the course of many more years of challenging work a Public Art Committee, independent of FRAA was formed. Today, PAC is supported and partially funded by the City of Florence. The robust Public Art rotating gallery you see around town today is one of their programs.

2024:

The FRAA Board of Directors has oversight of the Art Center and its various activities listed above as well as, events, and exhibits. FRAA hosts community art shows each year providing artists an opportunity to exhibit and sell their work. FRAA works to bring art to the youth and elderly through grant funding. FRAA volunteers also run the gallery which Florence voted "Best Gallery for 2023!" (Tied with Backstreet Gallery).

FRAA has grown in membership and programs since its inception. We currently boast over 150 artists and members. FRAA operates solely by Volunteers and has no paid staff. FRAA is looking to increase the number of Board members to support our growing needs. The Board is actively recruiting people of various talents to be part of guiding the evolution of FRAA's next chapter! To apply go the web site:

www.fraaoregon.com/the-board/