

ROTARY CLUB OF OREGON CITY — MAIN STREET OREGON CITY PARTNERSHIP

In November of 2011, the Rotary Club of Oregon City approached Main Street Oregon City with an interest in contributing to the revitalization work happening in downtown. They conceived the idea to install the first public art piece in downtown Oregon City since the 1980's. The site selected was the base of Singer Falls, a 1930's era WPA public improvement project located in the heart of the district, an increasingly active place for social and cultural programming like the Farmers' Market, the First City Celebration, and the Downtown Car Show.



As part of their 75th year of “service above self” to Oregon City, volunteers from the Rotary Club raised more than \$30,000 in funding from donations and grants within one year. They completed a rigorous public art process in collaboration with the Clackamas County Arts Alliance resulting in the commission of “moontrap,” a stainless steel signature piece by resident and internationally recognized sculptor Lee Kelly. As a project conceived and led by community members, this project uses a downtown landmark and a downtown focused public art process to build interest and a renewed commitment to their 166 year-old downtown. By juxtaposing modern art, they are showing how downtown can evolve into a modern marketplace.

Beyond the addition of public art, this project also laid the foundation for other projects, such as the recently completed lighting of Singer Falls; improving the surrounding plantings at the Falls; installation of another public art piece, the Willamette Compass; and, indirectly, a \$100,000 award from the National Endowment for the Arts as part of a \$250,000 placemaking and community building project at the Municipal Elevator.

