Port Orford is a small community on the Southern Oregon Coast. Logging has collapsed. A small commercial fishing fleet remains. Tourism supports many businesses, e.g. restaurants and art galleries. Port Orford is blessed with many ocean vistas, headlands, and history.

Our Main Street (Coastal Highway) is troubled with many vacant buildings and vacant lots. Our Main Street Revitalization Association has worked tirelessly to turn Main Street around. Although we work with the City of Port Orford, we formed our own 501c3 because the city has limited resources. Most of our projects have involved small grants: e.g. murals supported by the Oregon Arts Commission, The Coquille Tribal Community Fdn, and the Curry County Cultural Coalition; bicycle racks, decorative walls and planters along our sidewalks; and an annual town clean-up alongside Hwy 101 that serves as our main street. Oregon Main Street has been an encouraging resource.

Main Street grants (currently beyond our reach) could really help economic development and revive our struggling Main Street that involve problem buildings.

AuFranc Building and Savoy Theater

Savoy Theater - a small movie theater in the middle of our Main Street was built in 1931. It remained a theater until about 2 years ago with movies and special events. A fire destroyed the inside (mostly smoke damage). The building, still structurally in good scape, has been gutted on the inside and cleaned-up. It is vacant and for sale. We would like to purchase and remodel the building for a performing arts center that we would transition to a separate organization.

The nearby AuFranc Building housed a lawyer and a few other businesses in the past. Although it was not built until 1978, it has partially collapsed because it was never maintained. Our Main Street Organization has camouflaged the building with murals that included building a fence on one side. We would like to obtain this property, demolish the building, and turn it into a pocket park in the center of town.



Savoy Theater in Port Orford

Comment [1]:

Comment [2]:

'Downtown' works to spruce up in Port Orford

Photo by Lance Nix

Among the new "billboard" art around town is this colorful display on High-way 101, which is covering up an older building which is in need of repair. The work has drawn many positive comments, especially from fellow business owners in the vicinity.



Camouflaged AuFranc Building