



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 10, 2018
Contact: Margaret Jakubcin, Library Director
360.417.8500 x7714; Director@nols.org
Re: An extravaganza of art, music, community, and fun - at your library
Attached: *Neon Brass Party.jpg, Nina Pitts Art Chair.jpg, Jackie Miller Art Chair.jpg, Art Chairs.jpg, Brian Phillips-ReadingPersonInstall.jpg*

Libraries Rock! On Friday, July 27, the Port Angeles Main Library of the North Olympic Library System (NOLS), will take the quarterly *Art Blast* in extraordinary directions for the second occasional, pull-out-all-the-stops, *Art Blastapalooza*. The event will showcase live music from Seattle-based street band, Neon Brass Party, and the ceremonial Grand Illumination of the giant *Reading Person* sculpture. Visit the "Books Rock" Village (in the heart of the library) to enjoy fun, hands-on book-art activities -- and win prizes! The popular Best Sellers Book Domino race will return to the 2018 *Blastapalooza*, along with DIY musical-instruments, the Happily Irreverent Book Toss, Whimsical/Wearable Art, and the Colorful Characters photo booth. A live auction conducted by the North Olympic Library Foundation (NOLF) will offer opportunities to take home enchanting children's chairs, artistically enhanced by local artists. The newest Art in the Library exhibit, "Summer Fun and Fantasy" will be available for viewing throughout the evening.

The doors will open, and the fun and games will begin, at 7pm. The street show, including music, auction, domino race, and ceremonial illumination of the *Reading Person* will begin at approximately 7:30pm. Limited library services will be available during this extra-special after-hours event. The *Art Blastapalooza* is planned as an evening for let-your-hair-down adult fun, but is suitable for all ages. The *Blastapalooza* is presented in partnership with the North Olympic

Library Foundation (NOLF), and with the generous support of the Port Angeles Friends of the Library (PAFOL).

About Neon Brass Party

Neon Brass Party, a brass band from Seattle, is as bright as they are loud. Their number one goal is to get you out of your seat and shakin' your brass. So dig out your best glitter, sparkle, and flash, put on your dancing shoes, and get ready to blast the night away with Neon Brass Party!

About NOLF and the Art Chair Project

The North Olympic Library Foundation (NOLF), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, supports and aids in the enrichment of public library resources for the people of Clallam County. The Foundation's goals are to sponsor new and innovative system-wide Library programs and services, and raise funds for major capital needs. NOLF supports *Libraries on the Move*, an ongoing series of projects designed to enhance NOLS' ability to deliver library services when and where they are needed - beyond the library walls. NOLF's *Tiny Olympic Libraries* project provides books for people on the move at freestanding, self-service browsing boxes. Proposed future projects include *Digital Tiny Libraries* and, mobile pop-up libraries designed to bring training and library resources to convenient community venues. A dozen beautiful wooden children's chairs, recently decommissioned from the NOLS inventory, have been painted or decorated in a variety of amazing ways by local artists, and will be auctioned by NOLF at the *Art Blastapalooza*. Proceeds will benefit *Libraries on the Move* projects. The repurposed art auction at the *Blastapalooza* is NOLF's favorite community-based fundraising activity!

About the Reading Person

Inspired by the 2018 Summer Reading Program theme "Libraries Rock," and *Burning Man's* spirit of fun, community, and artistic imagination, a group of local artists came together to create a giant *Reading Person* sculpture to display at the *Blastapalooza*. Artists Diane Williams, Jan Dove, Pamela Hastings, Colleen Cunningham, April Watkins, and Michelle Johnson began phased design and construction of the Reading Person off-site in early 2018. NOLS Facilities Manager

Brian Phillips designed a clever system of pulleys and hooks (dubbed “skyhooks”) that allow large items, such as the Reading Person and other art, to be suspended from the high ceilings in the middle of the Port Angeles Main library. Thanks to a generous donation, NOLS was able to purchase and install the system earlier this spring. The nearly finished *Reading Person*, having outgrown the garages in which it took form, was brought to the library in late June and hoisted from the rafters to its current position. Final installation and finishing touches will continue during the month of July. The final piece will be showcased during a grand illumination ceremony at the Art Blastapalooza on July 27.

About the Art in the Library Exhibit

Art in the Library is a collaborative library-community art project celebrating the talents of local artists through a series of rotating visual art exhibits and fun, free *Art Blast* events. “Summer Fun and Fantasy” is the theme of the summer/fall Art in the Library exhibit, on view July 27 through October 23. Exhibiting artists include Miranda Laidig, Kathie Karst, Gayle Brauner, Mark Smoot, Pamela Hastings, Lucas Van Blair, Rene Westbrook, Linda Collins Chapman, Jack Galloway, John Teighert, Linda Carlson, Roger McGinnis, Ellie Polk, Leilani Thomason, Chizuru Takeda and others. The exhibit reception, beginning at 7pm, is an opportune time to meet the artists and view the new show. Also on-view during the reception will be artistically-enhanced library chairs decorated by local artists Pamela Hastings, Monica Gutierrez-Quarto, Jackie Miller, and others. The Art Chairs will be part of the live auction happening later on in the evening. The *Art in the Library* program at the Port Angeles Main Library is generously supported by the Port Angeles Friends of the Library.

More Information

For more information about the *Art Blastapalooza*, contact Library Director Margaret Jakubcin at 360.417.8500, send an email to Director@nols.org, or visit www.nols.org and select “Events.” For more information about NOLF or *Libraries on the Move* projects, send an email to ninacpitts@gmail.com or visit www.northolympiclibraryfoundation.org. The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody.



Neon Brass Party will perform during the Art Blastapalooza on Friday, July 27. (Courtesy photo)



Art Chair designed by Nina Pitts



Art Chair designed by Jackie Miller



Part of the Art Chair fleet



Brian Phillips works on the 'Reading Person' sculpture, which will be completed in July and showcased during a Grand Illumination ceremony at the Art Blastapalooza on July 27.

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