



A Community-Based Nonprofit Organization

Introduction

The Tumalo Improvement Project is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the beauty, culture, and spirit of Tumalo, Oregon. Our mission is simple yet powerful:

Mission Statement:

A community-based nonprofit created to raise money for the purpose of enhancing the community of Tumalo through public art installations as well as other initiatives which enhance the pride, unity, and values of Tumalo.

We believe that public art and shared spaces are the heart of thriving rural communities. With no formal town government, Tumalo's identity has always been shaped by its people—the ranchers, farmers, entrepreneurs, and families who have built lives here. Our work ensures Tumalo's story is told through meaningful projects that connect community heritage to future generations.

The first signature project is the Tumalo Roundabout Art Installation at the gateway into Bend. This community-selected design incorporates a windmill, mule deer, horses, and trout, symbolizing the life, movement, and values of Tumalo. The windmill pays tribute to irrigation, the defining element of Tumalo's landscape. The horses reflect the strong equestrian culture, while mule deer honor the resident and migrating wildlife. The trout

represent the Deschutes River flowing through the community's heart. Together, these symbols tell the story of agriculture, ranching, family roots, and recreation—all framed by Central Oregon's native vegetation.

This project was voted on by Tumalo residents at a community event, affirming its role as both a collective vision and a shared expression of pride. A permit with the City of Bend is being finalized, and now we turn to fundraising to bring this legacy to life.

Board of Directors

Nathan Wismer – Artist

Nathan has lived in Tumalo for 11 years and brings a passion for creativity and craftsmanship. Born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, he earned his Bachelor's in Arts and Sciences in 2001 and began steel fabrication in 2014, growing a thriving woodworking and fabrication business. A family man with twin boys and a deep love for fly fishing, rafting, and the outdoors, Nathan is the artist behind the roundabout installation. His personal stewardship of Tumalo is reflected in his work and land, where his family raises cows, chickens, and dogs on their 10 acres.

Erle MacDonald – Entrepreneur, Investor, Community Advocate

With a career spanning law enforcement, international tech trading, automotive and motorcycle sales, agriculture, and construction, Erle brings unmatched operational knowledge and entrepreneurial vision. As founder of Bay Brakes Automotive and Tire, partner in Central Coast Citrus and Del Monte Investments, and CFO/Owner of T Line Construction, he offers financial and business leadership. A former CASA volunteer and SCORE mentor, he is deeply committed to helping others grow businesses and communities. Erle resides in Tumalo with his wife Patricia and their pets, enjoying the outdoors and time with their grown children.

Steve Davidson – Entrepreneur, Mortgage Banking & Community Leader

A native Oregonian, Steve has lived in Tumalo for 20 years. With over two decades in mortgage banking and current service as VP of Mortgage Production at First Interstate Bank, he brings financial expertise and leadership. Alongside his wife and two daughters, Steve co-founded The Bite in Tumalo, a beloved community hub. He serves as Treasurer for the Deschutes County Rural Fire District #2 and Assistant Director for the Tumalo Town Ditch Company Board, reflecting his dedication to local stewardship and community safety.

David Neidorf – Entrepreneur & Community Supporter

David and his family moved to Central Oregon in 2011, settling in Tumalo five years later to build their dream home. As the owner of a property management company overseeing commercial and multi-family assets in Florida and California, David brings business insight and a strong commitment to giving back. He is proud to support the creation of Tumalo's public art centerpiece, partnering with local artist Nathan Wismer to realize the roundabout installation.

Tiff Kruger – Development Strategist & Community Stewardship

With more than 30 years of leadership in hospitality, real estate, and destination marketing, Tiff has supported landmark projects across Oregon, Colorado, Texas, and Panama. As a partner of locally owned C3 Events for 10 years, Tiff managed enduring community events including the Northwest Crossing Farmers Market. She continues to champion placemaking, wine tourism, and destination stewardship across Central Oregon. She has lived in Bend for 21 years and is thankful to share life with her four generations of family here.

Fundraising Action Plan

To bring the Tumalo Roundabout Art Installation to reality, we are launching a comprehensive fundraising strategy with four key pillars:

1. Private Donors:

- Target Tumalo residents, extended community members, and families who want to leave a legacy.
- Develop a recognition program (engraved plaques, acknowledgments at dedication event, donor wall on project website).
- Suggested giving levels: \$250, \$500, \$1,000+, with 'Founders' Circle' designation for gifts of \$5,000+.

2. Business Sponsorships:

- Engage local and regional businesses with tiered sponsorship opportunities (\$1,000 – \$25,000).
- Benefits include logo placement in promotional materials, recognition at events, and permanent acknowledgment near the roundabout art installation.
- Target industries: construction, real estate, outdoor recreation, agriculture, healthcare, and hospitality.

3. Grants:

- Apply for cultural and community development grants from the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Community Foundation, Travel Oregon, and Deschutes County Cultural Coalition.
- Seek national foundations supporting rural arts initiatives.
- Timeline: Submit applications within the next 6 months to align with construction launch.

4. Community Events:

- Host fundraising gatherings at The Bite and other Tumalo venues.
- Organize art shows, silent auctions, and live music events featuring local talent.
- Celebrate milestone events (permit approval, groundbreaking, installation) to keep momentum and visibility high.

Project Photos

