

2017 Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission Members



Left to right: Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission members, Gaerda Zeiler, Linda Paros, Marianna Hanefeld, Carol Belval, Ryan James, Dana Nunnely, Barbie Collins Young, Sophie Dutton, Christine Exline, Dawn Laurant, Nancy Whittaker, Michelle Lustgarten, Not pictured: Lani Brockman.

Ryan James (Chair) owns ryan james fine arts in Kirkland and participates on the board of the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce and the Kirkland Arts Center. Additionally he is the Co-Chair of the Symphony Guild for Lake WA Symphony. Ryan has become involved in multiple community arts events; Kirkland Summerfest, Art in Action at The Woodmark Hotel, VinTimate at the Heathman Hotel, Little Black Dress, Reflections and The Congressional Arts Competition and at his gallery hosts several significant charitable events for; The Hope Heart Institute, Bellevue and King Boys and Girls Clubs, Something Larger, Dybones Collective, Girls Giving Back, Bydfault, Sophia Way and Attain Housing.

Carol Belval (Vice Chair) is a ceramic artist with a concentration in Outdoor Garden Art. Carol is an Advisory Board Member for the Kirkland Arts Center (KAC). Carol has been a Board Chair for KAC, as well as the Art Docent Chair for Peter Kirk Elementary School. Carol has taught beginning clay to students of all ages in both the public school system and in Kirkland's Community Centers.

Lani Brockman is the Founding Executive Artistic Director of Studio East, Training for the Performing Arts, a twenty-four year-old theater school for youth in Kirkland. She teaches and directs at the Studio as well as at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts and Whidbey Children's Theater where she also serves on their Advisory Board. She is a proud member of the board at the Kirkland Performance Center and a graduate of Leadership Eastside, class of 2015. With her writing partner Susan Bardsley, Lani co-created and writes the musicals for StoryBook Theater-the Studio's professional touring company that entertains over 50,000 children and parents a year. Their shows introduce young children to the magic of theater and have been produced nation-wide as well as in Canada.

Sophie Dutton attends Holy Names Academy and has taken many art classes. She volunteers at the Kirkland Arts Center and loves working with children. She is looking forward to being a new member of the Cultural Arts Commission and contributing to making Kirkland into a vibrant center for the arts in the Pacific Northwest.

Christine Exline has been involved with and consulted more than sixteen non-profit arts and events organizations in than the past decade. From nationally recognized local theatres to local community events, she has done most everything from grant writing to corporate sponsorship to full scale planning. Her own art includes film, ceramics, jewelry, painting, and food.

Marianna Hanefeld has been involved in the arts since childhood when she sat at her mother's side at the family piano and learned to sing. In the ensuing years, she studied music at Seattle Pacific University, earning a degree in Music Education and she has taught music in a variety of school environments over the course of 20 years. She has been active in the music and arts community regionally, most recently with the Sno-King Community Choral, where she served as Board President

and CEO for 5 years. Her experience with arts groups at the organizational level has given her a passion for working toward the establishment and support of sustainable arts initiatives in Kirkland.

Dawn Laurant has over 30 years experience curating, researching and designing exhibitions for museums including the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the Burke Museum, The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, and the Marin County History Museum, and holds a Masters Degree in Museology from John F Kennedy University. In addition Dawn is an appraiser with the American Society of Appraisers as a specialist in Fine Art. Most recently, Dawn worked as an auction specialist and appraiser for Pacific Galleries, located in Seattle, WA. Alongside her work with the KCAC, Dawn has served as Chair and Co-Chair for a number of art organizations and programs including Summerfest Art Festival, Young Artist Exhibition at Summerfest, Kirkland Fish Frolic, and the National PTA Reflections Art Program.

Michelle Lustgarten is a graduate of the University of Washington with a BFA in Visual Communications and is the graphic designer for two area Honda dealerships. In addition to design, her passion is teaching art to elementary school children in Kirkland and is an art specialist at Bell, Sandburg and Lakeview. She is a supporter of the National PTSA sponsored Reflections Arts Recognition Program and she has instituted a tradition at Bell Elementary that 5th grade students create a legacy art project as a permanent addition to their school.

Dana Nunnelly has been involved in the Arts all of her life and holds a degree in Fine Arts from Puget Sound University. She has owned her own Graphic Design Company and has worked professionally in Art Direction, Marketing and Branding for Microsoft, REI and HomeGrocer.com. She teaches painting classes and facilitates Life Figure Drawing sessions at the Kirkland Arts Center, is a member of Art Chix and shows her work around the Seattle area.

Linda Paros has had her own interior design company, and has had a life-long interest in the arts, including architecture. She translates her love of the arts into action by volunteering at museums, fairs and art galleries.

Nancy Whittaker is currently the buyer for the store at The Burke Museum of Natural and Cultural History, at The University of Washington. Previous to her current position, for the past six years, Nancy was the manager and buyer for the store at The Bellevue Arts Museum. Following the mission of the museum, the BAM store prided itself on its support of local independent artists and craftspeople. Nancy is also on the board of the Northwest Art Alliance. Always a supporter of the arts, she was an art docent in the public schools many years ago. Now she lives in Kirkland with her soon-to-be husband who is an artist, and together they share a passion for the arts, and believe in the need for accessible and compelling art in the public sphere.

Barbie Collins Young is the Executive Director of the Kirkland Downtown Association, and has lived in Kirkland for nearly three decades. Her passion for art and community and an intense creative spirit keeps her involved in everything happening in Kirkland. She helps to organize many events which involve the arts Downtown, including Summerfest, Wednesday Market, Summer Concert series, Celebrate Kirkland, and Winterfest. Barbie has over 20 years of professional experience in operations, fundraising, customer service, grant writing, sales, marketing, recruiting and training in high profile positions. Her own art includes cartooning, video production, and painting.

Gaerda Zeiler lives and works in Kirkland, and is passionate about both art and architecture. She owns Moss Bay Homes, LLC which has built and renovated structures in Kirkland for over 21 years. Her work emphasizes responsiveness to how a client, family or community will live within a given space. Whenever possible, she uses salvaged materials in the construction process, both for ecological and design benefits. She is a Seattle Design Center member, Art Docent for the Peter Kirk Elementary and a member of the Kirkland Arts Center.