



WASHINGTON STATE  
ARTS COMMISSION



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: July 26-27, 2016

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### Administration. We continue to grow!

**Chuck Zimmer** joined the ArtsWA staff on June 1<sup>st</sup> as our second Art in Public Places Project Manager. Chuck received his MFA in Printmaking from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville (SIUE) in 1997. As an individual artist, he was a recipient of a Pollack-Krasner Grant and was the first MFA candidate at SIUE to be awarded the Competitive Research Grant for Graduate Students. He has worked professionally in the arts ever since. His position immediately prior to accepting this one with ArtsWA was as the Assistant Director for the Scottsdale, AZ Public Art Program. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Director of New Mexico Arts (NMA), a division of the State of New Mexico's Department of Cultural Affairs. In his 13+ years of public art administration he has held several positions, including Art in Public Places Program Manager and Art in Public Places Project Coordinator and has been privileged to work on projects with some of the field's most important figures, including Tom Joyce, Garth Clark, and Ai Weiwei. He has been involved in over 50 commissioned public art projects.

**Mitch Berndt** also joined the ArtsWA team on June 1<sup>st</sup> as our new front desk / fiscal support person. In joining the Arts Commission, Mitch made a career change to the accounting field. He has a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering and has worked in applied research & development, as well as in the area of operations refinement. He raised 2 children as a stay at home parent. He comments that he is a self-starter who is motivated by achievement. With little or no direct supervision he likes to identify the tasks necessary to reach a goal and to make things happen. He enjoys working as part of a team, is flexible, and can change work tasks as priorities shift.

### Annual Report

ArtsWA will have an annual report focused on FY 2016 for the first time in several years. The intent is to make this a report that is not only informative about the agency's activities, but also accessible and interesting to interact with. Board member, Zithri Saleem, has been offering his advice and expertise as we explore possibilities that blend data with technology. Karen, Glenda, Terry and Will Saunders, Senior Program Manager from WA Tech attended a "Jam session" on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Seattle at Fred Hutch. Invitees included artists, engineers and techy people aware of the intersection between science and the arts. Zithri Saleem, Board Member, had extended the invitations. Next steps are now being considered. Budget will be an issue, but we hope to end up with something notable.

### ArtsWA Committees and Opportunities for Board Participation

See document in your board packet regarding details of ArtsWA's standing committee structure and other opportunities for Board participation and interaction with ArtsWA programs.

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### Washington Center for Cultural Traditions

Background: Humanities Washington (HW), the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA), and Northwest Heritage Resources (NWHR) have joined as key partners to establish the Washington Center for Cultural Traditions (the Center). The purpose of the Center will be to document, explore, and promote the history, art, and traditions of Washington's cultural communities, carrying on the good work previously conducted by ArtsWA and NWHR. By capitalizing on the strengths of each partner, we believe that this collaborative effort will create a strong foundation and leadership for a statewide movement in support of the folk and traditional arts.

We received notice in early April from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that they are awarding us \$41,000 for FY 2016 in support of this project. The process then got underway to review resumes of potential candidates. We had more than a dozen applicants. Interviews were conducted in May, which led ultimately to the hiring of Kristin Sullivan as the first Director of the Washington Center for Cultural Traditions! She will have an official start date of 12/1/16, but will move out in September and work on a contract basis until that time, performing a landscape analysis of the state and creating an implementation plan for the Center. Kristin will bring many years of experience practicing cultural anthropology as a researcher and in the museum field, and academic preparation related to the conservation and performance of cultural heritage and the traditional arts. She is well equipped for the task of advancing the study, documentation, and practice of folk and traditional arts and cultural heritage within Washington State. Most recently, she was the Director of Exhibitions and Research at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University, in Salisbury, MD, where she was the Curator and Folklorist.

### NEA Partnership Application for Fiscal Year 2017

Work is underway on our state "off year" NEA partnership grant application. Deadline is 9/30/16. This year, for the first time in a few years, we will submit a request for additional support for folk and traditional arts. The request will be designed to complement and support the work of the Center, while reinstating a folk and traditional arts presence at the agency. Collaboration with the new Executive Director of the Center is now on-going as we craft an appropriate request that both complements the vision for the Center while re-establishing a modest folk and traditional arts presence back at ArtsWA.

### Arts and the Military / NEA visit

Bill O'Brien, Senior Advisor for Innovation to the Chairman, NEA, organized a visit to WA, July 18-19, as part of the NEA's plans for expanding their Military Healing Arts Partnership to sites beyond the National Intrepid Centers for Excellence at Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir. While final decisions regarding their upcoming expansion activities will not be definitely confirmed until they conclude their site selection matrix and vetting with partners in the Department of Defense, based on discussions with interested military treatment facilities they are fairly confident that the 9 sites they will be adding to their existing programs at Walter Reed, MD, Fort Belvoir, VA and Navy Special Warfare, Virginia Beach, VA will include:

- NC: Camp Lejeune (Jacksonville) and Fort Bragg (Fayetteville)
- TX: Fort Hood
- CA: Camp Pendleton (San Diego)
- WA: Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Seattle/Tacoma)
- AK: Joint Base Emendorf-Richardson

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We coordinated with them regarding some of the site visits and activities that included, amongst others, a visit to the Hot Shop Heroes project at the Museum of Glass. The goal for the NEA site visits was to assess the clinical environment and discuss with local military partners ways to replicate the clinical approach the NEA has developed at Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir, and connect their new military partners with local arts assets in their communities to begin investigating how clinical programs may be able to expand out into community engagement settings to bridge military and civilian communities and advance wellness and engagement opportunities for our military and veteran populations and their families. An example of this type of effort is the result of a partnership between the NEA's Creative Arts Therapy program in Fort Belvoir, and Alexandria's Art League IMPart program (at the Torpedo Factory). Suzanne Bethel from Art League forwarded a link to the program that was discussed during conversation at the Americans for the Arts 2016 Conference in Boston.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Hanan, Executive Director  
July 15, 2016