



SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN RICHLAND STAR AWARD

The Richland Arts Commission accepts nominations for two annual awards to recognize local contributions made in support of the arts. These awards are intended to distinguish two recipients for their outstanding contribution and support of the arts in Richland, Washington. The awards are presented to one individual and to one organization (for profit or not-for-profit) annually. The award is made for the year prior.

2020 RECIPIENTS

MID COLUMBIA BALLET



Mid-Columbia Ballet has been bringing the art of dance to the Tri-Cities through performances such as The Nutcracker since 1975. At that time, they were called Mid-Columbia Regional Ballet (MCRB) and the Artistic Directors were Carolyn and Dale Felix. In 1987, Debra and Joel Rogo purchased the Tri-Cities Academy of Ballet, and Debra was hired by the Board of Directors to be the new Artistic Director. In 2002 MCRB shortened its name to Mid-Columbia Ballet (MCB).

Over the years, MCB has grown both in terms of the number of dancers in the company and as an influential arts organization within the community. Best known for the traditional holiday ballet The Nutcracker, MCB's audiences have reached capacity at the Richland High School Auditorium where MCB nearly sells out each of 4 performances each December. In addition, local 5th grade students are invited to attend a special Nutcracker performance on the Monday following the public performance. This has resulted in over 400,000 Tri-Citians having attended a live MCB performance at one time in the organization's history.

MCB performs classical, neoclassical, and modern works by choreographers from throughout the United States and has been granted performance rights to several Balanchine works by the George Balanchine Trust and was the first pre-professional ballet company to perform a work by world renowned choreographer Twyla Tharp. A number of MCB dancers have gone on to professional dance careers, most notably, former Pacific Northwest Ballet principal and current Artistic Director of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Patricia Barker.

To fulfill MCB's education values it's necessary to take ballet "off the stage" and "out of the studio" so that ALL members of our community may enjoy this art form through our outreach programs as described below:

- Science of Dance, an interactive lecture demonstration in partnership with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and local schools, that is aligned with Washington State K-12 Science Standards to be compatible with the essential academic learning requirement (EALR) areas of physical, life, earth, and space science.
- Dance Speaks, an on-site performance designed for residents of Senior Home Communities, with a dance element to music of the 40's & 50's and conversation with the residents exploring interests, laughter, and smiles.
- Peter and the Wolf, a children's ballet performed at local elementary schools that gives students one of their first experiences in arts education and entertainment.
- INCLUDE (Inspiring, With No Challenges, or Limitations, the Universality of Dance Experiences), a series of in-studio workshops and classroom outreach for people with disabilities and special needs. Sensory friendly performances of MCB's productions are also offered to members of this special community.

As it was impossible to present our annual Nutcracker 2020, MCB pivoted to create a love-letter to our local community. Clara's Tri-Cities Nutcracker Dream, our free movie with over 13,000 YouTube views, highlights 125 performers, and over 35 Tri-City locations and businesses.

COURTNEY JETTE

Courtney Jette Designs

I was born and raised in Richland, Nuclear Native through and through. I am currently a professional illustrator/designer and photographer working on the West Coast. I have worked in a vast number of mediums throughout my life, ranging through glass, woodworking, painting, photography, sculpture, screen-printing and many more. However, I was nominated for my work in photography for the creation and production of The Shutdown Project.

I became aware of photography in 6th grade, and eventually bought my first digital camera in 8th grade. What followed was a portrait photography business until senior year and a wedding photography business until 2015, when I decided to switch to commercial photography, branding and advertising for small businesses, which I think is what gave me the pulse of the local businesses when the pandemic first struck. My business follows a lot of local businesses, and that is how I think I viewed and felt the initial hit of covid19.

It was a crazy feeling I couldn't ignore, and before I knew what I was doing, I had posted a graphic on social media about starting The Shutdown Portraits... the project never, technically, ended, just like the pandemic. A total of 29 businesses were visited, interviewed, and photographed throughout eastern Washington for the project, which spanned from March until it slowed in September, 2020. All the articles and portraits of the project can be viewed at www.courtneyjette.com

I have been creating since I could grasp a crayon, and so everything I do today I have just picked up and practiced along the way. I first started classes with a watercolor workshop at the Allied Arts summer workshops for children at the age of 8 (best workshops ever). I transitioned to acrylics by high school. If I had had access to supplies and tools, I think I would have gone into glass or pottery.

Although I have participated in every art opportunity that crossed my path, the murals installed in the wading pool in Howard Amon Park, around 2014... that project was one of my favorites to be asked to participate in. I had so many parents tell me how stoked they were for the paintings in the pool. Hoping sometime in the future we can do it again, bigger and better!

I started a non-profit photography business in 2009 for people, seniors and families and couples in our area that could not afford professional photography, because everyone deserves to have access to quality photos of their special life moments or loved ones. And I still do around 5-10 sessions or events, a year, for that.

I cannot wait for Richland and its community to continue to grow, and I look forward to any opportunities to color this town and help build the Art scene and lasting relationships within the Richland art family. Thank you for nominating me, and choosing me. I know there are other individuals that help progress art in Richland and I think we could all be considered STAR award recipients.



PAST RECIPIENTS

- 2019 - Drew Boy Creative | Luke Ray
- 2018 - The Emerald of Siam | Adrienne Shields
- 2017 - Tri-Cities Steel Band Association | Patrick Fleming
- 2016 - Fox-Vance Family Foundation | Nancy Doran
- 2015 - HAPO | Robert Waltrous
- 2014 - Tri-Cities Chinese American Association | Debra Rogo
- 2013 - RPBI (Market at the Parkway) | Chuck Eaton

- 2012 - Tumbleweed Art Studio | Jo Brodzinski
- 2011 - Battelle | Justin Raffa
- 2010 - (not awarded) | Tom Powers
- 2009 - Columbia Center Rotary | Fred Dixon
- 2008 - Allied Arts Association | Artis Vaughan
- 2007 - (not awarded) | Jerry Greenfield

