



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.

2021 RECIPIENTS

ARTS CENTER TASK FORCE



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The Arts Center Task Force has grown out of a long-standing need to build a professional-caliber performing arts center in the Tri-Cities metropolitan area. ACTF was founded in 1995, and has since persisted and grown through the years as the need to build infrastructure for local arts groups has grown.

Due to the pandemic, many performing arts groups were in the midst of collapse due to the lack of infrastructure and the inability to meet in person. This is when the ACTF pivoted their operations to provide funds and digital capabilities to help those local arts groups survive, many of which were headquartered here.

In 2020, they raised funds and provided grants for struggling visual artists. In 2021, they redoubled their support, helping performing artists through creating performance videos, live streaming events, and videotaping auditions for the Young Artist Competition. In October 2021, ACTF remodeled a former broadcasting studio in Richland to provide much-needed space for rehearsals, meetings, displays, volunteers, and storage. The space has also become home to the brand new ACTF Digital Studio, which offers audio, visual, streaming, and podcast space and services for a small fee.

Throughout it all, the Arts Center Task Force continues to work tirelessly with city leadership and the Richland Public Facilities District board to identify a site for a future Performing Arts Center and has proven its commitment to the arts by their selfless support to keep these non-profit organizations afloat when it was needed the most. Congratulations to a well-deserved Arts Center Task Force!

JOSH DARBY

Artistic & Education Director,
Academy of Children's Theatre (ACT)

Josh is the current Artistic & Education Director of the Academy of Children's Theatre (ACT), orchestrating a remarkable five to seven plays or musicals a year. He is a Secondary Drama Coach for Three Rivers Homelink and continues his education programming from American Association of Community Theatre, Theatre for Young Audiences, and our commission for the arts at the state level, ArtsWA.

In addition, he shows his enormous heart for helping children succeed by teaching hundreds if not thousands of students, ages 3.5 to 18 years old to learn and grow creatively and compassionately. He is an exceptional coach to these young artists in helping them hone the tools they need to express themselves.

This past year, Josh has outdone himself by finding ways to continue delivering artistic opportunities to the youth of our community during the height of a global Pandemic. By thinking out of the box, he created ACT's first fully-incorporated Zoom musical: High School Musical Jr. This was an enormous undertaking and could not have been done without the right leader in the helm. This 40 plus student musical production was:

- a) recorded as if it was a Zoom class,
- b) performed while meeting required social distancing requirements, and
- c) edited for a digitally streamed broadcast

The fact that ACT is still here for the community, and is continuing to offer an inclusive, diverse, and equitable creative space for the youth of the lower Columbia Basin, is a testament to Josh Darby - humble and appreciative from surface to core. We, the Citizens of Richland could not be more *proud* to consider you, Josh Darby, one of our brightest STARS.



PAST RECIPIENTS

2020 - Mid-Columbia Ballet | Courtney Jette
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

