



SNOHOMISH COUNTY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS NOMINATION FORM

INITIATOR: Please fill in this section

County department/agency: Exec Office/Economic Development/Arts Commission

Contact person/phone: Richard Porter richard.porter@snoco.org, 425-620-6290

Name of Board/Commission: Arts Commission

Advisory ☒ Governing ☐ Ad Hoc ☐ Ongoing ☐

Term of Appointment: 4 years

Commencing: September 2025

Mandated Requirements for Appointment*:

The Snohomish County Arts Commission is authorized by County Code:

<https://snohomish.county.codes/SCC/2.95>

SNOHOMISH COUNTY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APPLICATION FORM

NOMINEE: Please fill in the following information Name of Board/

Commission: Snohomish County Arts Commission

New appointment: ☒ Reappointment: 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ Ex-Officio ☐

Snohomish County Council District:

How did you learn of this opportunity? Snohomish County TV

Do you currently serve on a Snohomish County board or commission? No

Name & pronouns: Keaton Branch (he/him)

Preferred name (if different):

Home Address:

City, State, Zip: Bothell,

Mailing Address (if different):

Telephone:

Alternate #:

E-mail:

Occupation: Executive Communications

Current Employer: Microsoft

Education/Certifications: Comms studies, Texas A&M Univ; Prosci Certified Change Practitioner

Licenses held (if applicable):

NOMINEE: Please continue to the next page



Why would you like to serve on this board/commission?

I want to serve on the Snohomish County Arts Commission because I believe in the power of the arts to build empathy, strengthen communities, and enrich lives. As a lifelong professional musician and arts collaborator, I've seen how creative expression unites people across diverse backgrounds. In the course of my 14-year journey at Microsoft, I've developed programs that brought music and digital arts to underserved youth and supported minority-curated art programs. I see a unique opportunity to bring that experience home to Snohomish County, to support emerging artists, expand access to the arts, and help the county build an arts ecosystem that is both inclusive and thriving.

Does your schedule allow for at least six hours per month to participate in monthly evening meetings and service on a committee?

Yes

Which medium of expression do you identify most with? Performance/writing

Please describe how your lived experiences (volunteerism, on-the-job-training, education, and/or other background) will inform your service on the arts commission?

As both a professional artist and someone who's worked at the intersection of corporate social impact and community development, I bring a unique blend of creative and strategic experience. At Microsoft, I helped design and implement programs that brought music tech summer camps to underserved neighborhoods, hosted STEAM-focused youth events incorporating projects like 3D art and music production, and built funding pipelines for minority-led arts exhibitions. I've also volunteered locally through my church, performing and supporting musical events. These experiences have reinforced my belief that access, visibility, and support are essential for artists to thrive — and I would bring that lens to every initiative I support as a commissioner.

Do you have a vision to mobilize creative expression in Snohomish County?

Yes. I envision an arts community where every resident, regardless of background or location, can easily discover and connect with the arts — both in person and online. I believe Snohomish County has the potential to become known for its vibrant arts culture, similar to how cities like Austin or Chicago have woven the arts into their civic identity. I'd love to help the commission grow programs that promote artists through social media, digital storytelling, and cross-platform engagement, making the arts more visible and accessible to everyone.

What areas of arts advocacy will you focus on as a commissioner?

I'm especially passionate about supporting emerging artists, increasing public access to the arts, and creating pathways for creative youth to engage in meaningful expression. As someone who spent much of my professional career navigating the industry as an emerging artist, I understand the challenges new artists face and how transformative it can be when they are supported and celebrated by their community. I'm also committed to helping the county expand access in underrepresented and rural areas, where resources and exposure can be limited.

List two references and their contact information.

Reference 1:

Olga Mosiychuk



(425)770-3735
olgamosiychuk@gmail.com

Reference 2:
David Rees
(281)687-2650
der6892@aol.com

Include other information you feel is relevant to your application.

In addition to my creative and community development background, I bring experience in executive communications and event planning — skills that would help amplify the Commission's mission and make arts events more impactful. I'm also a strong collaborator who thrives on building bridges between sectors — from local government to grassroots communities to corporate partners — to create sustainable support for the arts. I am eager to learn from current commissioners and help further the mission of fostering empathy, opportunity, and access through artistic expression in Snohomish County.

***2.03.060SCC - Candidates for appointment to County boards or commission must meet the following requirements:**

1. Possess qualifications for the appointment sought, as shown by the candidate's written documentation and any hearing testimony.
2. If a reappointment, demonstrate the continuing benefits of retaining the board member as discussed in the executive's recommendation and a satisfactory attendance record, as determined by adopted criteria of the particular board.



3. Reside or work in Snohomish County or show evidence of special interest in Snohomish County, provided that a candidate may not be a County employee.
4. Membership is limited to one position at a time on a board or commission, provided that a member of a board may simultaneously serve on one ad hoc or advisory committee. (Ord. 82-037 § 1, adopted June 9, 1982)

By signing this Application Form, Nominee acknowledges that he/she will comply with all county policies, county code, and state law. Nominee also acknowledges that any record, including personal e-mail, prepared, owned, used, or retained by Nominee in the conduct of Board/Commission business is a public record, and Nominee agrees to produce said records to County upon request. Failure to comply with the above provisions may result in Nominee's removal from Board/Commission.

Signature:

Date:

07/18/2025

Please attach responses and resume (if available) and email to:

Richard.Porter@snoco.org