

Lia Blanchard: Supplement to Arts Commission application

1. *What is your connection with the arts and how have you participated in the arts community?*
My connection with the arts has centered around performance art and literary art.

As a youth, I participated in a lot of dramatic arts, singing and performing the lead in elementary school plays for several years. In middle school, I switched to wind instruments, eventually settling on tenor saxophone. I was elected the marching band drum major, and won several state competitions and college scholarships for band performance.

I eventually earned a degree in communications, focused on radio/tv/film. Writing has always been my greatest strength; in addition to being the foundation of my career, I have always written poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction for fun. Pre-pandemic, I was also attending numerous writers' events; in 2018-19, this included the following events in Snohomish County: the Till residency program, Edmonds' Write on the Sound, and several of Sno-Isle Libraries' "Write Now" events.

For a while, there was a community in Marysville in which I was very active – the Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship put on several "coffeehouse" performances, including music nights and poetry slams. I participated both as a performer and emcee at various times.

I also played the lead villain in an (unreleased) independent film we shot in various locations around Snohomish County, circa 2006-2007. In the future, I'd love to find the time to get back into performing in the dramatic arts. 😊

Currently, I am active in the Marysville City Bands organization, as tenor sax player and board member.

2. *What skills, knowledge and approach would you bring to the Arts Commission?*
I would bring to the Commission the skills and knowledge to contribute to the communications and publicity needs of the Commission. I understand that some of these needs are met by County staff, so my approach would be to follow their lead and fill in gaps as needed.
3. *How would your involvement help mobilize the arts community and arts supporters to elevate the arts in Snohomish County?*
I'd like to find more ways to present visual, performing, and literary arts *together*. It is my observation that these art forms are often presented in silos, and I think there is much to be gained (particularly for young people) by demonstrating how they compare, contrast, and complement one another – that there is room in the arts for all different kinds of people.
4. *Specify your main area of interest in the arts: Visual, Performance, Literary*
Performance and literary arts.

5. *List past or present art organization affiliations.*

As more than a participant, I have been affiliated with these groups in Snohomish County:

- a. Marysville City Bands
- b. Evergreen UU Fellowship coffeehouse productions

6. *List two references and their contact information.*

Nashika Stanbro
425.315.4856

Halleh Stickels
206.229.4051

7. *Include other information you feel is relevant to your application.*

I began attending Arts Commission meetings in September of 2019. It's been interesting getting to know everyone and, even through the pandemic, learning about the commission and its duties. In particular, the review and republication of the commission's mission is exciting progress.

I truly believe that the world will experience a renaissance of art in all forms as we emerge from the pandemic. I'm excited to be a part of whatever this looks like in Snohomish County, and to help bring it into public spaces.