

SNOHOMISH COUNTY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APPLICATION FORM QUESTIONS

María G. Casey

What is your connection with the arts and how have you participated in the arts community?

I am passionate about creating art since I was very young.

I hold a bachelor's degree in Interior Design from Universidad Femenina de Mexico, a Diplome' de Maitre de Formation de Pebeo in Art from Provence, France and a MFA1.

In México I ran my own Interior Design business, worked teaching art for a television show, and as a Project Art Coordinator in two magazines.

In Everett, WA I founded The Fat Brush Art Workshop which is a non-competitive art project where children, adults and people with special needs enrich their lives by creating art.

Currently I serve as Art Instructor at schools in the Seattle Archdiocese, teaching a wide variety of creative expressions. I collaborate with the Lynnwood Library, the Everett Community College, WAGRO foundation and Connect Casino Road where I work with underprivileged people, helping them to express their emotions through the arts.

I am interested in helping people with mental illnesses to stay on the path of recovery, so I also have two certifications in Children with Special Needs: Physical Disabilities and The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) by NAMI Eastside (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

I master a wide variety of artistic techniques including oil, acrylic, wall decoration, pastel, sculpture, and mixed media, just to name some of them.

I have participated in many exhibits. Recently some of my art was exhibited at the Lynwood Convention Center, the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art from Salisbury University and at MAPECO in Uruapan Michoacán México.

In 2022 I organized, with other collaborators, the first contest "Dress Like Frida" with recycled materials, which purpose was to get people to know more about the Mexican artist and to promote the creation of wonderful attires reusing materials.

This year I am organizing the second edition of the contest which will be held in July.

Since 2010 I have participated every year with Wagro Foundation in the "Día de los Muertos" celebration, creating big innovative altars to promote the knowledge of this Mexican tradition.

I have painted a variety of murals that are displayed throughout my community in Washington State, and decorated walls giving a welcoming look to restaurants, hospitals, kitchens, livingrooms, bedrooms, and bathrooms in Mexico and the United States.

What skills, knowledge and approach would you bring to the Arts Commission?

I am passionate about creating and teaching art because I believe it's a powerful resource to express feelings and can contribute to the emotional and physical well-being of people. I also think is a great way to communicate and leave traces in the cultural history of the world.

I would like to promote art creation reusing materials because I think is a way to take care of our environment and because doing art doesn't need to be expensive. Creating art can be for everyone.

I think that at the time we are living in it's essential to take care of our planet and that we inevitably need to teach that to future generations.

I believe that creating art with recycled elements is a way to make people conscient about the importance of maintaining the earth healthy in a creative way.

I would also like get people to know the uplifting and healing effects of creating art and the impact that art creation can have on people of different backgrounds to understand their culture and identity.

How would your involvement help mobilize the arts community and arts supporters to elevate the arts in Snohomish County?

I think that by being aware of the needs of our community and being able to promote the understanding of the benefits that art creation can produce in people of all ages, backgrounds, and conditions, the arts community and supporters will be interested in elevating the arts in Snohomish County. We all can benefit from it.

List past or present art organization affiliations

None

List two references and their contact information

1. Julieta Crosby 206 850 2329
2. Yelitza Medina 206 209 9235

Include other information you feel is relevant to your application.

One of the greatest joys that being an art instructor for quite a few years has given me is to meet extraordinary people from different ages, backgrounds and ways of thinking and learning. While teaching art has been an opportunity for me to analyze how we, as human beings, are full of experiences, emotions, feelings and perceive the world in different ways, it has also make me more conscious about how helpful is for everyone to be listened, understood and motivated to express our feelings even when we are not aware of them or ready to transform them into words.