

Arts, Synergy, & Culture - Curating a Space for Artist Collaboration in Bellevue



Aziza Saliev

Painter, Model,
Nurse



Raja Olimuthu

Bass Player,
Artist Event
Host, Engineer



Naren Bir Ar

Portrait
Photography,
Human Rights
Activist



Irma
Aghajanyan
Pianist, Music
Composer,
Teacher

Event Briefing



Aziza Saliev

Has lived in Bellevue and Redmond for 15 years. She moved to Washigton from Uzbekistan. with her parents at the age of 19. She is a self taught painter and has created art since childhood. She is best known for her “Whimsical Girl” paintings. Outside of her art she is a nurse and has a desire to uplift immigrant stories.

Aziza and I personally met at 3rd Culture Coffee at a art night event in Downtown Bellevue.



Raja Olimuthu

Raja has an amazing background in petroleum engineering and now software. He moved to Bellevue from Austin, Texas and is a bass player.

Raja is one of my good friends and is often referred to as “Mr. Bellevue” do to his stellar networking skills. He has coordinated several events for musicians and artists in Bellevue include.



Naren Bir Ar

Naren Bir Ar is not only an artist who focuses in potrait photography, film. She is as used her experience as a Kurdish refugee from Iran, first generation college student to uplift silenced ethnic and religious minorities. Her work has been featured at Havard University and on BBC.

Naren and I were connected by Michelle DeGrand. Michelle shared Irma's (other panelist) work and it led my to Naren. Her overall story is phenomenal and she is a captivating speaker (I learned this first hand as we've met.)



Irma Aghajanyan

Irma is the founder of “Piano Without Tears” where she trains students from Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, and Carnation. She uses her story as a survivor of the Armenian genocide where her, and her husband and small children fled the Soviet Union.

I met Irma after finding an article about her work. She caught the attention of Disney animation studios with her music composition skills.