

# Information

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Bellevue Arts Commission

1E-113 or Zoom Meeting, 4:30 pm

City of Bellevue, WA

## Partner Presentations

At today's meeting, five Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) grant recipients will give short presentations about their organization and any upcoming events.

**Code and bylaw support:** This item is presented to the Commission as it is supported by City Code 3.56.070 item J: "Recommend priorities for funding and allocation of small grants to arts organizations based on eligibility and selection criteria approved by council," along with items B and E.

### Background

Staff are piloting a program for the Arts Commission to be better informed about the organizations and events supported by the Commission. The presentations are voluntary for all 2025-26 EAP grant recipients. Staff reached out in February to open the opportunity up and received great success, with interested folks now scheduled through September. Today's meeting marks the second round of presentations. Below are details about each grantee and their award for the 2025-26 cycle.

#### Bellevue Youth Choirs (BYC)

2025-26 Award: \$9,000 each year plus a \$5,000 PowerUp bonus in 2025

About BYC: Bellevue Youth Choirs provides high-quality music education to young singers across the Eastside. It offers opportunities for students from PreK through college age to build musicianship skills, explore diverse global cultures through music, and form lifelong friendships in a welcoming community.



Since returning to in-person instruction in 2021, BYC has grown from 50 choristers to nearly 200 registered singers and continues to expand offerings to include college students and adult participants. Each season features three mainstage concerts (December, March, and June), community outreach performances at retirement homes, community centers, and public events, and tour opportunities for our oldest choristers.

BYC's mission centers on inspiring young voices through excellent training, authentic cultural representation, and community connection.

Upcoming event: June 14 at 3:00 PM, First Free Methodist Church, Seattle

## Sadhana

2025-26 Award: \$7,000 each year

Sadhana is a registered non-profit 501c3 organization that was established in 2019 in the greater Seattle region by five amazing art lovers.



### Mission:

- Art to impact community.
- Art that makes a statement for people.
- Art that resonates with society.

Sadhana is dedicated to Art, education & culture to impact the community. It aims to nurture and promote arts such as Dance, Music, Theatre, Photography, Creative Writing & Painting to highlight and educate about issues relevant to all of us.

### Upcoming events:

- Rabindra Nazrul Utsab 2025 at Bellevue Youth Theatre on June 7, 2025
- Nritya Lab 2.0 at Issaquah Depot Museum on June 29, 2025

## Evergreen Association of Fine Arts (EAFA)

2025-26 Award: \$5,000 each year

About: The Eastside Association of Fine Arts (EAFA), now The Evergreen Association of Fine Arts, is a volunteer-run non-profit visual arts organization that has served artists and communities in the Puget Sound region since 1975. EAFA promotes community, education, and practice in the Fine Arts through various programs and newsletters. EAFA membership provides the following:

Monthly Meetings: EAFA meets monthly (with a break in the summer) at the Crossroads Community Center in Bellevue. Meetings consist of a one-hour professional artist presentation, an art critique session with the guest artist, the opportunity to showcase their latest artwork, and the opportunity to meet and form friendships with other artists. Members are encouraged to bring guests. NEW: EAFA is hosting live YouTube videos of our monthly meetings for members who are unable to attend the in-person sessions.

Plein Air Program: Our Plein Air Group meets every week at locations throughout the Puget Sound region from May through September. This is one of our most active groups. The program allows artists to practice outdoors with other artists. All levels of art expertise are welcome, and the public is welcome to join in.

Public Art Program: Members can jury into our Public Art Program and display work throughout the year. EAFA takes no commission on sales. Our public art venues include five locations at Overlake Medical Center: Cardiology Wing, Neonatal Wing, Oncology Wing and Paccar Education Center, along with Bellevue Public Library and Newcastle Public Library. EAFA also hosts a rotating Art Show on our website for its Public Art members.

EAFA Juried Shows: EAFA hosts an annual juried members' show at various locations such as community centers and senior living centers. There are awards and prizes as well as a reception.

EAFA Scholarship Program: Each year, EAFA selects a project or group involved in promoting youth art programs to receive a scholarship. Last year, EAFA provided two scholarships of \$1,000 each to the Jubilee Reach After School Arts Program in Bellevue and the Schack Arts Center Youth Outreach Program in Everett.

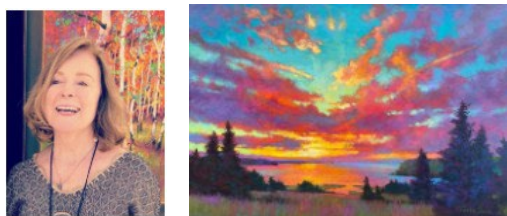
Website Presence: EAFA members are provided with the opportunity to have their websites posted on the EAFA website.

New This Year: Members have the opportunity to sign up for 3-hour classes sponsored by Arts Umbrella in Kenmore at a reduced cost. These classes are held once every quarter. This year, EAFA will also be hosting its first Open Call Online Juried Show. The call is open to anyone residing in the Pacific Northwest with cash prizes totaling \$3,500.

Outreach: EAFA is going into its second year with an information booth at the Crossroads Farmers Market.

Guest Artists to Date in 2025:

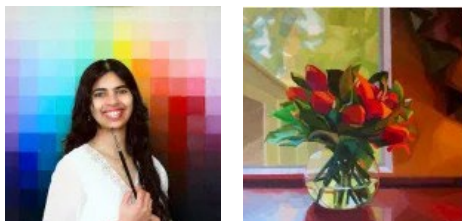
APRIL 2025 – TERESA SAIA, Pastel Artist



MARCH 2025 – PAUL ROSIAK, Oil Painter, Co-Director Gage Academy of Art Classical Atelier



FEBRUARY 2025 – ASHWINI SADEKAR & founder Conscious Creative Circle



JAN. 2025: STEPHANIE HARGRAVE, Encaustic and Clay Sculpture Artist





## Theatre33

2025-26 Award: \$10,000 each year plus a \$5,000 PowerUp bonus in 2025

### Theatre33: A Stage for Stories, A Home for Community

When the lights dim and the curtain rises, something magical happens in the heart of the BelRed Arts District. Stories unfold, languages blend, and communities come together. This is the world of Theatre33, a nonprofit community teaching theater that has been nurturing creativity, connection, and culture since 2013.



Theatre33 began with humble roots, staging its first production—*Let's Talk About Love, Justice and Human Wit*—in the Seattle Armory on October 25, 2013. In 2016, we leased our first tiny black box theater in Bellevue and expanded programming to include our teen children because they wanted to join us in telling stories. But even then, one thing was clear: this was more than just a theater company. It was a space where immigrant voices found resonance, where next-generation Americans rediscovered heritage, and where

audiences of all ages were invited to explore the human experience through the power of live storytelling.

Today, Theatre33 offers a full season of quality productions for audiences of all ages, bilingual youth and adult education programs, and engaging free community events. At its core, Theatre33 is a platform for connection, bridging continents and cultures through both classic and contemporary works, immersive educational workshops, and joyful community gatherings.

The theatre's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity is highlighted by our unique approach to language. Many productions are subtitled, welcoming multilingual families, language learners, and audience members unfamiliar with the performance's primary language. It's a small detail that makes a big impact—transforming each show into a shared experience, no matter where someone's journey began.

Theatre33's youth programs are just as intentional. Through the bilingual theatrical education program, tweens and teens explore acting through playful, game-based learning. They dive into theatre history, sharpen performance skills, and even explore technical careers in the arts—all while celebrating their cultural and linguistic identities.

Theatre33's roots run deep in Bellevue, with more than 80% of its loyal audience based in the city and many coming from across the greater Seattle region, including Auburn, Renton, Issaquah, Sammamish, and beyond. Our ongoing collaborations with local French and Chinese theaters, an Indian dance group, and a multilingual choir continue to enrich the region's cultural tapestry. In 2016, Theatre33 found its first permanent home—a cozy black box space with just 35 seats. But our biggest leap came in 2022, when we found our new home in the heart of the BelRed Arts District and began renovating a crossfit gym into a performing arts facility. We officially opened the new location to the public on October 2, 2023. We are now wrapping up our 11th season, with over 100 individual title productions in our repertoire with more premieres on the way.

Theatre33's talent and passion extend far beyond the local stage. Our highly acclaimed production of *Constellations* won state and regional awards and will represent Bellevue at the National Festival of the American Association of Community Theatre in Des Moines, IA this June. Meanwhile, our youth group has been invited to perform the original adaptation of *The Little Prince* at the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2026. It is a tremendous honor and milestone for our youth and the theater.



Inspired by our own festival adventures, we have been dreaming of bringing the world to Bellevue—and in 2025, we made this dream a reality. The inaugural Bellevue International Theater Festival welcomed seven theater companies from four states, showcasing performances in four languages over three days at the Meydenbauer Center. With over 1,200 live theatre experiences offered to local residents and visitors alike, the festival was an overwhelming success. The plans are already underway for an even more spectacular return in 2026. In a few years, we will add youth productions to BITFest.

Theatre33 is more than just a stage. It's a home for many, a gathering place that welcomes everyone, and a celebration of the rich, diverse voices that make up our community. Through storytelling, education, and the arts, Theatre33 continues to remind us of something essential: that no matter what language we speak, we all understand the power of a good story.

### **Eurasia Arts Foundation**

2025-26 Award: \$7,000 each year

### **Staff Contact**

Manette Stamm, Arts Program Analyst  
425-452-4064, [mstamm@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mstamm@bellevuewa.gov)