



SUPPORTING THE ARTS IN RICHLAND

STAR AWARD

The Richland Arts Commission accepts nominations for two annual awards to recognize local contributions made in support of the arts. These awards are intended to distinguish two recipients for their outstanding contribution and support of the arts in Richland, Washington. The awards are presented to one individual and to one organization (for profit or not-for-profit) annually. The award is made for the year prior.

2022 RECIPIENTS

THREE RIVERS FOLKLIFE SOCIETY

Tumbleweed Music Festival



For the past 26 years, the Three River's Folklife Society has hosted what is now one of the largest folk music events in Eastern Washington.

Before Covid, the Tumbleweed Festival drew in about 4,500 attendees throughout the weekend. When the pandemic arrived, this non-profit organization pulled together all of their resources and created a virtual event, which they also keep going today. In 2021 and 2022, this virtual event included 200 performances, concerts and live stream workshops all over the world, including Ireland, Scotland and Germany.

The three-day festival, which is always Labor Day Weekend, is a long-term, reoccurring cultural musical experience that plays a significant role in Richland's art and entertainment attractions.

ELICIA ELLIOTT

Co-founder and Artistic Director The Rude Mechanicals

The individual award was presented to Ellicia Elliott, co-founder and artistic director of the Rude Mechanicals, a local performing arts organization producing Shakespeare and Shakespeare-inspired plays. Ellicia has lived in Richland for 18 years. She has worked with the Academy of Children's Theatre, Richland Players Theatre, the Mid-Columbia Musical Theatre and the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers. She also spent eight years as the theater director at Richland High School. Her role in the Rude Mechanicals has been profound. From co-founding the non-profit, to ensuring Shakespeare is accessible and fun for all ages, to producing the areas first free Shakespeare in the Park. This free, family friendly, outdoor performance of Shakespeare in the Park. Before the show each night, Ellicia hosts a prologue of sorts, in which she talked the audience through the major characters and plot setup of the play so that they would be prepared to enjoy what they were about to watch.

Creating a theatrical experience in the middle of a public park required massive work. With Ellicia's vision and commitment, hundreds of all ages enjoying this immersive experience.

In Summary, Ellicia has been a committed supporter (and creator) of the arts in Richland for almost 2 decades, and her newest endeavor, the free-admission production in Howard Amon Park, is the perfect demonstration of that.



PAST RECIPIENTS

2021 - Arts Center Task Force | Josh Darby
2020 - Mid-Columbia Ballet | Courtney Jette
2019 - Drew Boy Creative | Luke Ray
2018 - The Emerald of Siam | Adrienne Shields
2017 - Tri-Cities Steel Band Association | Patrick Fleming
2016 - Fox-Vance Family Foundation | Nancy Doran
2015 - HAPO | Robert Waltrous
2014 - Tri-Cities Chinese American Association | Debra Rogo

2013 - RPBI (Market at the Parkway) | Chuck Eaton
2012 - Tumbleweed Art Studio | Jo Brodzinski
2011 - Battelle | Justin Raffa
2010 - (not awarded) | Tom Powers
2009 - Columbia Center Rotary | Fred Dixon
2008 - Allied Arts Association | Artis Vaughan
2007 - (not awarded) | Jerry Greenfield