

2006 AMOCAT Arts Awards

The AMOCAT Arts awards recognize those in our community who provide distinctive contributions to the arts. The honorees work hard to support and build our community by innovating in artistic excellence.

The AMOCAT Artist award recognizes individual artists whose work helps to raise the awareness and exposure of the arts in Tacoma. Arts Outreach honors organizations which provide exemplary service and programming to the local arts community. Arts Patrons are organizations, businesses, or individuals dedicated to the financial support of arts programming in Tacoma.

2006 Artist award - Laura and Matt Eklund

Artists Laura and Matt Eklund have been busy in Tacoma - not only are they active artists, they have been integrally involved in bringing Tacoma some new and exciting festivals. With the help of friends Linda Honek and Johannah Gardner, Laura and Matt hosted the second annual Urban Art Festival in June 2006. They also put together a masquerade bash on New Years Eve at Club Zoe and two Art in the Park "under the trees" festivals at Wright Park. In addition to these public festivals, they coordinated events and created a website for Rampart Gallery. Laura assists in hosting the Art Slam at Jazzbones and donated a mural to Liberty Ridge Elementary School. Matt plays guitar for Tangerine Space Odyssey, performing around Tacoma. Laura and Matt have artwork at Rampart Gallery.

They express a passion for participating in Tacoma's thriving art community and are determined to continue producing new art happenings. Laura's enthusiasm is summed up in her words, "It's so wonderful to be able to do something great for the community and receive this much appreciation."

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2006 Arts Outreach award - Barefoot Studios

Barefoot Studios offers dance instruction, presents art exhibits, and produces performances. Owners Paul and Joséphine Zmolek direct Callous Physical Theatre, an interdisciplinary contemporary dance and fringe theatre company, presenting two to three original productions each year at Barefoot Studios. Callous Physical Theatre's productions feature a diverse range of performers of different ages, body types and backgrounds. They produced Grudge Match: ReMatch, their annual antidote to the Nutcracker, which was performed in December 2006.

Guided by the conviction that healthy art must be part of community and healthy community must include the arts, Barefoot Studios produced the site-specific dance festival SiteWorks at the Museum of Glass; produce the bi-monthly 10X10 performance series, offering artists and audience members a chance to participate in direct feedback

sessions following the performance; and continue to offer workshops, master classes, and lecture-demonstrations for local schools.

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2006 Arts Patron award - 6th Avenue Business District

The 6th Avenue Business District has been active in creating a more vibrant and pedestrian friendly 6th Avenue, guided by the belief that public art brings people into a neighborhood and increases livability and economic viability. In a continuing endeavor to bring about these changes, the business district hosted the 8th annual Art on the Ave in 2006, boasting four entertainment stages, artisans, food vendors, and an art-car show. The business district also produced several other public art projects including Can Do, a project involving the creation of embellished trash cans to line 6th Avenue. Through an innovative neighborhood grant from the Central and North End Neighborhood Councils, five local artists (Mark Larson, Ann Meersman, Jayson Olson, Sue Pivetta and CJ Swanson) were hired to create these functional pieces of art. The district worked with Mauricio Robalino to create two sculptures at the corner of 6th Avenue and Cedar. Bill Bruzas carved a bench, sited along 6th Avenue, in honor of the late Jim Smith, local woodcarver.

The 6th Avenue Business District is actively encouraging and promoting a more livable community through the inclusion of the arts in everyday life.