

East Shore Gallery

Mission - Vision

The mission of the East Shore Gallery is to build community by using visual aesthetics as a way of connecting individual creativity / spirituality to church members while serving as a creative conduit to the greater community.

Background

The East Shore Gallery at East Shore Unitarian Church is a unique community resource. Formed in 1967 as a way to highlight and display the creativity of a church membership as well as bring the talents of Seattle's growing art community directly to the East Shore Church community. East Shore had been steadily growing since its inception in 1948 as the Fellowship of Mercer Island. In 1953 the Fellowship of Mercer Island acquired seven acres, which has evolved into the campus we know today.

During an early development and expansion phase of the church in 1966 an art gallery was designed into the expansion and renovation plans. The church's new gallery committee opened its first exhibit on March 5, 1967. With 48 years of service to the church, regional artists and greater community, this gallery has special standing as being one of the first in the east Puget Sound and as a friend and resource to emerging and professional artists. Over the years, the gallery has presented over 250 shows, showcasing artwork by several thousand artists while enriching the lives of the East Shore Unitarian congregants and community.

Contributions

The gallery's greatest achievements are its ability to build community within the church by expanding cultural and aesthetic outreach, introducing new individuals to the church and facilitating artistic creativity and spirituality through validation. In addition the gallery contributes financially with its annual pledge and periodic cash contributions. The cash gets absorbed into the operating fund but the Gallery's in-kind contributions are seen and experienced daily by all church members and visitors. Some examples are, but the presented list is not inclusive:

- Sanctuary and Pulpit Chairs
- Furniture for North and South Rooms
- Cedar benches and mats by North Room
- Art Glass installation for two sets of entry doors
- Wood turned Offering Plates made by a Northwest artist
- Wind sculpture in island of entry driveway circle
- Bronze Sculpture – "Arctic Mother and Cub"
- Chalice in Sanctuary (Used every Sunday for Worship)

Benefits

Art as a benefit is the simple act of building a presence through sharing. Many church attendees physically experience a withdrawal when there is no show present. As a church community we are enriched by the creativity of the art shown and shared. The shows provide a multi-generational experience directly and indirectly. Shows often are culturally focused, such as last year's offering: "Modern Imagery of Northwest Native Artists".

The East Shore Unitarian experience collectively is about building community while honoring diversity, creativity, and individuality by encouraging spiritual growth on a personal and a community level. The East Shore Gallery in all of its efforts strives to build a sense of belonging, respect, and care for one another as we universally experience the offerings of the East Shore Unitarian Church.