



## **THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER**

*Create Hope  
in the World*

### **AMY BEHRENS A NEW ERA AT MARYHILL MUSEUM OF ART**



Amy Behrens became the new executive director and chief executive director for the Maryhill Museum of Art in August 2023. She joined Maryhill after serving as executive director at Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, a nationally registered historic site and visitor destination for arts, education, and botanical gardens in Southern California where during her tenure, annual membership subscriptions more than doubled and cultural programs grew and diversified from less than 50 to nearly 150 events annually. She also successfully navigated organizational and financial pathways to stability due to COVID-19 and a landslide, increased the operating budget by nearly half a million dollars over a four-year period, and achieved Casa Romantica's highest-ever fundraising revenues.

Behrens previously held positions as interim associate director of Ace Gallery, one of the largest gallery-held collections of blue-chip fine art in the western United States, and gallery manager of River Gallery (formerly Carl E. Smith Gallery) in Los Angeles and Laguna Beach. As a complement to her arts administration skill set, she has also held management roles in marketing and branding. Behrens holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Visual Communication from Laguna College of Art and Design.

As a member of the Orange County Arts Agency, Behrens curated artistic and interpretive exhibits highlighting Casa Romantica's permanent collection and archives. An interpretive exhibition curated for the John Wayne International Airport in 2019-20 was seen by up to six million visitors. She established partnerships with public-private agencies such as the Mexican Consulate in Santa Ana, the Orange County Public Library System, and the Vietnamese American Association of Letters and Arts to engage diverse audiences with supportive, relevant cultural programs and no-cost learning and scholarship opportunities; and led initiatives to make the visitor experience more convenient and inclusive.

#### **FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING**

Greeters – Andy Lucero, Joel Ylvisaker  
Invocation – Tim Carlson  
Program – Nancy Leahy  
Attendance – Margaret Filkins

#### **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

April 4th – Mike McMullen & Antone Miller, Emergency Preparation  
April 11th – Deputy Leo Diaz & Sheriff Bob Udell, Yakima County  
Drone Program  
April 18th – WA State Senator Curtis King, Legislative Update  
April 25th – Chris Lueck, Washington Winery Glass Recycling  
Initiative

## MARCH SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL

Wednesday, March 27  
Zesta Cucina  
5pm to 6pm

Great food, Great conversation, and Great fun!  
We pay for hors d'oeuvres – You pay for drinks.



## PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, March 29, 2024, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

### **Rodrigo Renteria**

Interim Associate Dean

Central Washington University

**Classification: Higher Education, Administration**

Proposed by: Erin Black

Endorsed by: Ralph Thompson

## REVIEW

This week was a chance for President Elect Jim DeGrasse to be in charge as he unexpectedly filled in for President Erin. He did so wonderfully. A special thank you to Jim and everyone who helped make it a great day. Sheri Bissell and Mike Hummel were out in the lobby selling squares on the board for the Seattle Mariners opening day game. Kurt & Melissa Labberton, Rick Fairbrook, and Marisol Fast teamed up to serve as our greeters. Charlie Robin accompanied by Bob Hamilton on the piano led us in God Bless America. Sheri Bissell shared an inspirational message about how sports is a lot like life with opportunities to learn (practice), fail (lose), and succeed (win). President Elect Jim welcomed our guests and gave one last reminder for Rotary Ski Day, and Doug Rich raised funds for Rotary Charities with a Nashville themed sergeant-at-arms.

Ryan Anderson and Dana Eliason made announcements for the annual Scholarship Dinners and the next Second Chance Social. Ryan shared that sign-ups for the Scholarship Dinners are underway for both hosts and attendees. The dates of the Scholarship Dinners are May 9th through May 23rd. The cost is \$125 a member and includes your spouse, significant other, or a friend. The proceeds support our Academic and Vocational Scholarship programs. They are a wonderful opportunity to meet someone new in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Dana followed with an invitation to this month's Second Chance Social next Wednesday, March 27th from 5pm to 6pm at Zesta Cucina. Mark your calendar and plan to be there!

Mike Hummel had the honor of introducing our featured speaker and fellow Rotarian, Washington State Secretary of State Steve Hobbs. With a GREAT sense of humor, he shared about his office beyond just elections. He was born and raised in Washington; his mother came to this country in 1969 pregnant with him. She didn't know any English. They learned together by watching Sesame Street. He is a father of three. Two are currently attending the University of Washington and in the National Guard. His middle son has special needs; he represented our state in the Special Olympics and won a bronze medal.

The original job of the Secretary of the State in 1889 was to take and keep notes of what the legislature was doing and to be the keeper of the state seal. As time went on, the legislature gave more things for the office to do. Across the U.S. some secretary of state offices oversee elections, some do not. Some of them have department of licensing, Washington does not. Washington's Secretary of State has around 300 state employees in eight divisions; that number can increase up to 350 to check signatures on initiatives. All state archives are kept by the Office. They have all the archives going back to our territorial days. They have birth certificates, marriage licenses, and divorces decrees; and a letter from George Washington. If you are a UFO enthusiast, they also have a large collection of UFO sightings. Why? During the Cold War each state had their own civil defense whose job was to document sightings. Archive buildings are located across the state.

The Office has state libraries. The physical state library is in Tumwater. They also own libraries in each of the state prisons, in two of the state hospitals, and for the first time in the youth detention facilities. The first week the library was open at Echo Glenn, 75% of the youth

there checked out a book. One of the reasons he came to Yakima was to launch the Safe Libraries Safe Kids Initiative. He was delivering a starter kit to our library and playing Dungeons and Dragons with Senator Curtis King. They are working at setting up a civics education program through libraries as well.

Charities, Corporations and Non-Profits are under Secretary of State. They are starting a satellite office near Spokane. If that works they would like to open up more. The satellite can handle requests for an apostille, which is something like a super notary and is usually used for adoptions and international business deals. The Office represents the state in international relations. Reverse trade missions invite representatives of foreign governments to visit places across the state. Two years ago delegates from Japan and Taiwan visited Monson Fruit orchards and wineries. One of the goals was to show them how clean and efficient the businesses are, have them take the information back to their country, and help to remove tariffs. Additional programs include address confidentiality to allow the hiding of addresses for those who have been victims of domestic violence, combined fund drive to empower state employees and retirees to support charities and nonprofits, and a productivity board that incentivizes state employees to help state government operate more efficiently by suggesting cost-saving ideas.

The Elections Division has the most pressure. Steve came in knowing about elections as a member of the legislature and having served overseas in the military. Working overseas in Iraq and Kosovo with elections he saw there was misinformation, violence, demonstrations, malign actors, and interference from other nations. As he came into office, Kim Wyman shared the biggest problem was misinformation. The best way to combat misinformation is to educate voters. He believes that if people knew about the process of elections and the ballot we wouldn't be in the position we are in today. He wants people to know you can go to your local county auditor to watch the process, and that we are part of the electronic registration information center with other states that catches individuals trying to vote more than once. When he took office, he expanded voter outreach and education including talking about cyber security.

Albert Sensors are systems that provide security alerts for known cyber threats, aiding state and local governments identify malicious cyber activity. Within the first few weeks in office, they received a misinformation campaign directed towards the Albert Sensor. The FBI, Homeland Security and International Guard Cyber Defense Unit were brought in to let local officials know that they were the victims of misinformation. However, the misinformation still resulted in three counties pulling the Albert Sensor. Recent legislation now makes it mandatory to put the Albert Sensor on. Other legislation highlighted included allocation of \$8 million for cybersecurity, \$3.9 million to stabilize operations of the State Library and State Archives operating funds, and support for funding development for the Archives Building. Key Bills included banning Deepfakes, Class C felony for election worker harassment, and changes to the signature threshold to put library dissolution onto the ballot.

His presentation was informative, fun, and ended with a great question and answer session.