

# THE ARTISTS' GUIDE TO SEATTLE

INSIGHTFUL INTERVIEWS WITH  
TWENTY-TWO OF SEATTLE'S MOST  
INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS ABOUT THEIR  
FAVORITE LOCAL DESTINATIONS



Seattle  
metronatural™  
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau

**ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE SOME OF OUR CITY'S RESIDENT ARTISTS, WHO SHARE WITH YOU, IN THEIR OWN WORDS, SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE PLACES AND WHY THEY CHOOSE TO MAKE SEATTLE THEIR HOME.**

Seattle is known as one of the nation's cultural centers. In fact, Seattle is home to more arts-related businesses and organizations per capita than any other metropolitan area in the United States, according to a recent study by Americans for the Arts. Our city pulses with the creative energies of thousands of artists who call this their home.

In this guide, twenty-two painters, sculptors, writers, dancers, theatre directors, photographers, glass artists, musicians, singers, filmmakers, actors and more tell you about their favorite places and experiences.



James Turrell's *Light Reign*,  
Henry Art Gallery

Roy McMakin's *Love & Loss*,  
Olympic Sculpture Park



## FEATURED ARTISTS:

JUAN ALONSO  
CHRIS BALLEW  
ETIENNE CAKPO  
JANE EAGLEN  
TIMOTHY EGAN  
JOHN GRADE  
ARIANA LALLONE  
DAVID LASKY  
HUGO LUDEÑA  
PAUL RUCKER  
SARAH RUDINOFF  
SABZI  
GERARD SCHWARZ  
LYNN SHELTON  
BARTLETT SHER  
PRESTON SINGLETARY  
TOM SKERRITT  
ANNA SKIBSKA  
AKIO TAKAMORI  
BARBARA THOMAS  
CYNTHIA TOOPS  
ALICE WHEELER

ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE SOME OF OUR RESIDENT ARTISTS





**JUAN ALONSO | PAINTER**  
[WWW.JUANALONSO.INFO](http://WWW.JUANALONSO.INFO)

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE PLACES IN SEATTLE?

The Olympic Sculpture Park – cultural places often don't seem like a priority but, when it comes to showing the pride of a city, it's the first thing that comes up. I also like some of the art that is beyond the galleries, such as at First Thursday open studios at [619 Western Ave](#), [1426 Jackson Studios](#), and [Noodle Works](#). My studio in Pioneer Square's [Grand Central Building](#) is also open on First Thursdays.

#### WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SEE ART OUTSIDE THE CITY?

[Centrum](#) in Port Townsend is a great art center, residence, beach and park. If you have a car, you can take the ferry and go there for the day – it's a magical spot.

#### WHERE ARE SOME OF YOUR PUBLIC ART PROJECTS?

I was asked by Sound Transit to create five windows and a gate with a garden theme for the [Edmunds Street Plaza](#) building that obscures electrical equipment from view. The principal material for the work is stainless steel and the window designs are backed by translucent colored glass, which is lit from the inside at night.

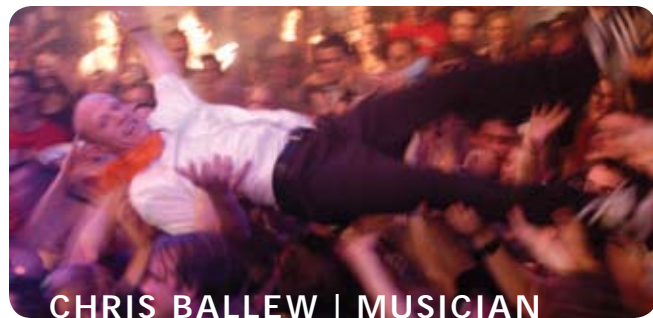
Also, the King County Housing Authority recently rebuilt a neighborhood called [Greenbridge](#) with mixed income housing and parks with a community center, and they really wanted to include artists. I've designed a concrete plaza, two sculptures, four benches, tabletops, and stylized games for kids such as hopscotch and 4-Square. I moved to the United States from Cuba when I was ten years old, so being an immigrant and understanding how that feels inspires me do these projects – it gives people something to be proud of.



619 Western Ave.

#### WHAT DO YOU FIND SPECIAL ABOUT BEING AN ARTIST IN SEATTLE?

One of the things that I thought was really cool about Seattle when I moved here in 1982, and I think is still true, is that it's a city where you can start something. It's open enough and new enough that not everything has been done, and that's a great feeling. I came to a city where no one knew me and thought, "I want to start something." And Seattle gave me the opportunity to do that.



**CHRIS BALLEW | MUSICIAN**  
[WWW.PRESIDENTSROCK.COM](http://WWW.PRESIDENTSROCK.COM)

#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN SEATTLE? WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER UNIQUE ABOUT LIVING HERE?

I grew up in Seattle then left for nine years in the late '80s and early '90s. So, I've been back living here for fourteen years. I like the way Seattle is up in the corner of the map. I think it seeps into the minds of the artists and musicians here in a good way. I feel free to not seek validation from the mainstream. The message of our provincial nature is "do it yourself and make it purely you." It is the freedom and power of being creative without expectations.

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD?

**BALLARD!!!** I love the mix of industrial and residential zoning. It's a working neighborhood with fishing and cement trucks and construction companies mixed with little old ladies and artists.

#### WHEN YOU HAVE A DAY OFF, WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO?

**MAKE MUSIC!!!** It is the time when my fear of the future and punishment for the past disappear, and I am a child again.

#### IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT SEATTLE THAT YOU THINK WOULD SURPRISE VISITORS?

The sunshine: "The bluest skies you've ever seen (are in Seattle...la, la, la)."

#### HAS LIVING IN SEATTLE INFLUENCED YOUR WORK?

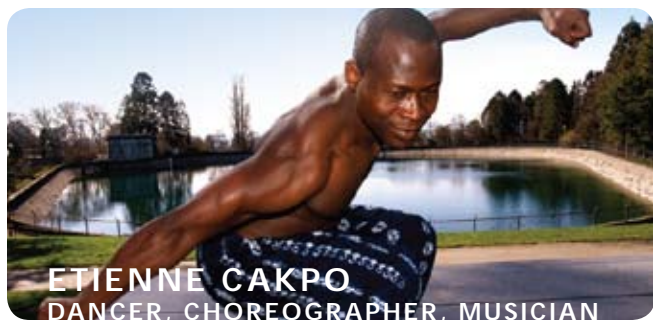
It has in that it feels separate, and there is freedom in that to be weird and unique and very personal. If you can make it here you'll make it here. I think that's how the song goes!

#### WHAT'S YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF ADVICE FOR VISITORS?

Go slow. Walk as much as you can. Get out on the water in a boat. Breathe deep. Eat small fish.



Ballard Avenue NW



**ETIENNE CAKPO**  
DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER, MUSICIAN  
[WWW.GANSANGO.COM](http://WWW.GANSANGO.COM)

#### HOW DID YOU FIND THE DANCE COMMUNITY WHEN YOU MOVED TO SEATTLE FROM BENIN, WEST AFRICA?

I came to Seattle for one month before I moved here, and was asked to teach a workshop. Other dancers I met seemed interested in what I do, so I took a modern dance class with some of them, and it was from that group that I started my dance company, *Gansango Music and Dance*. We formed with eight dancers from all kinds of dance, such as flamenco and ballet. Seattle is a good city for collaboration like that. We would mix African dance with all other kinds and it was wonderful.

In addition to my company, I also concentrate on my solo work and am often asked to teach workshops for festivals and schools. Seattle has a lot of artists which is something I love here, so there is lot of support within the local culture.

#### WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PLACES TO PERFORM?

The [Seattle Children's Festival](#) (aka "Giant Magnet") - we do a dance with masks, and the kids go crazy! I also enjoy [The Paramount Theatre](#), which has a nice floor for dancing, and the [Broadway Performance Hall](#) at Seattle Central Community College.

#### WHAT DANCE STUDIOS WELCOME VISITORS FOR A SINGLE CLASS OR WORKSHOP?

I always encourage dancers who are visiting to introduce themselves to the local dance community. [Velocity Dance Center](#) is open to visitors for a one-time class or workshop, as is [Dance Underground](#).

#### ANY OTHER THINGS YOU LIKE TO DO?

I like a lot of restaurants in the [International District](#) because they serve what we eat in Africa: rice, beans, and other foods like that.



Velocity Dance Center



**JANE EAGLEN | OPERA SINGER**  
[WWW.JANEEAGLEN.COM](http://WWW.JANEEAGLEN.COM)

#### WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN SEATTLE, BESIDES THE OPERA?

My husband and I are subscribers to the [Seattle Symphony](#) and I do love to go to as many concerts as I can. I enjoy listening to music without voices, frankly, and particularly love piano concertos - I once hoped to be a concert pianist, and hearing some of the great players reminds me I could never have done it!

#### ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL PLACES YOU LIKE TO GO FOR ARTISTIC INSPIRATION?

I'm not sure where artistic inspiration comes from, if indeed it does come at all, but there are several places I like to go to get away from it all. I love the tranquility of water, and I often watch the ferries come in from [Kerry Park](#) on West Highland on Queen Anne Hill. I love that view and, when Mount Rainier is visible, I could stand there for hours. My sister-in-law and her husband live on [Whidbey Island](#), and I never get tired of going over [Deception Pass](#), which has to be one of the most beautiful places anywhere in the world.

#### DESCRIBE A PERFECT DAY WITH A VISITING FRIEND?

I think it would start with coffee in the original [Starbucks](#), then a stroll 'round [Pike Place Market](#). One of my favorite places to walk is [Seward Park](#), which is just the right distance and has lots of water and wildlife to watch. A little shoe shopping at the [Nordstrom](#) flagship store would be followed by an evening at [Safeco Field](#), where the Mariners would beat the Yankees by a huge margin!

#### WHAT ONE THING ARE PEOPLE MOST SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT SEATTLE?

It really doesn't rain very much. It drizzles sometimes, but that doesn't stop you from going out and doing things. But don't tell too many people it doesn't rain, or everyone will want to live here!

#### WHAT'S YOUR BEST PIECE OF ADVICE FOR VISITORS?

Seattle has something for everyone: culture, shopping, outdoor activities, great food and wonderful, friendly people. Be prepared to fall in love with this city. I did!



Seattle Symphony at Benaroya Hall



[EGAN.BLOGS.NYTIMES.COM/](http://EGAN.BLOGS.NYTIMES.COM/)

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR SEATTLE BACKGROUND.

I'm third generation Seattle, so my perception has changed as I've seen Seattle through my grandmother's eyes, my mother's eyes, and now. I got my first newspaper job here at the P.I. When I started writing for the New York Times twenty years ago, I had to look at the city the way an outsider would.

#### WHAT CHANGES IN SEATTLE HAVE YOU WITNESSED?

The music scene in the late 90's really changed Seattle's identity; after having a reputation for opera and the outdoors, suddenly it was the Liverpool of the U.S. But one constant is that this is a city that's really close to nature, so everything I love to do here has to do with the outdoors.

#### WHAT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY?

I love to go to the [Cedar River](#) and watch the salmon in the fall. The water is crystal clear and you can see thousands of salmon. Riding the [ferry](#) from the peninsula to the Seattle waterfront is the greatest urban view anywhere in the world. I was married in the [Smith Tower](#), right in the city in [Pioneer Square](#), where you can see three national parks from the top floor: [Mount Rainier](#), [Olympic National Park](#), and [North Cascades](#), which has more glaciers than anywhere in the U.S.

#### WHAT ARE SOME FAVORITE PLACES TO TAKE VISITORS?

I take visitors to [Volunteer Park](#) to see the Noguchi sculpture. [The Seattle Asian Art Museum](#); there is a prime example of Seattle's beaux arts-style architecture. It was done in the 1930s as a way to show a great building that looks out over this amazing view. Now, we have the same concept with the [Olympic Sculpture Park](#).

#### WHAT ARE SOME LESSER-KNOWN THINGS ABOUT SEATTLE?

I love the [Seattle Tower](#), Seattle's first art deco skyscraper, built in 1928. Not only is it perfectly art deco, but the rusty red color of the building was meant to mimic basalt, the rock that forms Mount Rainier.

The best book ever written about Seattle is called *Skid Road* by Murray Morgan, written in 1951. If you go up to the top of Yesler and look down the hill, you see the original Skid Road where they rolled the logs down to the water.

#### YOU'RE A UW GRADUATE. DO YOU STILL HAVE ANY CONNECTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY?

The main library, [Suzzallo](#), is where I researched two of my books, and I'm a Huskies fan. The UW is in an incredible setting that shows off the city, and the library is an amazing gothic structure, with the greatest collection of Pacific Northwest historical documents.

#### ANY FAVORITE BOOKSTORES?

I've always liked [Elliott Bay Books](#) because it's really a book mecca, and traveling writers love to go there because, any night of the week, someone can draw a crowd at a reading. People love writers in this town; it's a great place to be a writer or a reader.



JOHN GRADE | SCULPTOR

[WWW.JOHNGRADE.COM](http://WWW.JOHNGRADE.COM)

#### WHAT ABOUT SEATTLE CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR ARTWORK?

The rain here helps me to focus and get work done inside the studio. Puget Sound and the wilderness of the Cascades and Olympic mountains feed my work. I'm inspired by the working port, the shipping along the Duwamish, and the sense of community within neighborhood centers that offer an intimate scale like [Columbia City](#), [South Park](#) and [Georgetown](#).

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PLACE TO GO NEAR YOUR STUDIO WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

[Chinatown](#) – there are several small restaurants in the area that have hidden back-room bars where you can have a beer and chat with a couple of friends. The [Panama Hotel](#) coffee shop is also a good place to meet people, and I like to go to [Uwajimaya](#) and pick out something I can't name and eat it. There is a p-patch on the north side of the area that is a quiet little retreat, and I like to walk along the train tracks heading south into the more industrial areas to do some thinking.

#### WHEN YOU HAVE A DAY OFF, WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO?

If I am staying in the city, I like [Discovery Park](#), where I take the steps down from the bluffs to the water and stare out at the Sound. I also like sitting on the south-facing benches at [Gasworks Park](#) and looking at the city in the evening. If it is cold and raining, [Vertical World](#) south of Ballard is a great place to climb (or take a class to learn). It is the first climbing gym in the country and a great way to get tired out and fall a lot. There are also many good independent movie houses, like the [Grand Illusion](#) or the [Northwest Film Forum](#). I like to walk with friends who are visiting up the water tower in [Volunteer Park](#) and then step into the greenhouses nearby to look at the succulents and orchids.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE SEATTLE PLACES TO SEE ART?

I like going to the [Henry Art Gallery](#) on Thursday evenings, and making the circuit around the [Tashiro/Kaplan Building](#) when it is quiet midweek. I think [Zeitgeist](#) coffee does a great job with the shows they organize in Pioneer Square. Seattle also has some really great outdoor art such as the [Fireman Tribue Statue](#) in Pioneer Square, the [Noguchi sculpture](#) in Volunteer Park, and the entire [Olympic Sculpture Park](#).



Noguchi's *Black Sun*, Volunteer Park



**ARIANA LALLONE | DANCER**  
[WWW.PNB.ORG/COMPANY/BIO-LALLONE.HTML](http://WWW.PNB.ORG/COMPANY/BIO-LALLONE.HTML)

#### HOW DID YOU COME TO LIVE IN SEATTLE?

What brought me here was ballet. Companies like [Pacific Northwest Ballet](#) have schools with summer programs, and I auditioned for PNB and came here my senior year of high school. I went from being 5' 2" when I was about twelve to 5'9" at fourteen, and it's a little bit of a problem as a dancer! But I fell madly in love with Seattle and the company and the school, and I felt very comfortable at my size — I felt very welcomed — and it was one of the best summers of my life. And I didn't even go to places like the [Space Needle](#) or the [Market](#) then, and I think that's because I knew in my heart I was going to come back, and I did. And that was 23 years ago.

#### DO YOU LIKE TO SEE DANCE IN YOUR FREE TIME?

I absolutely like to see other dance performances that come into town because it's a great learning experience. I'm also a big fan of [Spectrum Dance Theater](#).

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF THE DANCE SCENE?

I'm madly in love with Seattle. One of the attractions for me is the water. I live in Queen Anne, and I love the view driving down Queen Anne Hill. I also love the [Boardwalk from Pier 70 to Elliot Bay](#), and watching the cruise ships that are docked there in the summers.

I love taking the ferry from Seattle to [Bainbridge](#) and then the drive to the [Olympic Peninsula](#). And if we're talking about the water, even driving across [SR] 520, that is not a common view that most people get to see. When people complain about the traffic on 520, I think, "Where would you rather be stuck in traffic?"

I like seeing musical theater at the [Paramount](#)—that's a beautiful building—and at [The 5th Avenue Theatre](#). Musical theater can be very slapstick and funny and I don't mind being a fan of that.

#### WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO TAKE VISITORS?

The drive to [Snoqualmie](#) and to the waterfalls—that's very beautiful. I've been there when it's freezing and I've been there when it's warm and they're completely different experiences, but they're both very magical. [Downtown](#) is also wonderful; I immediately send people down there to walk around. And I take people to the top of [Queen Anne](#) to all the shops and restaurants between [Galer](#) and [McGraw](#). You just sort of have this feeling of welcomeness; everyone is so nice.

Seattle is a truly unique, beautiful place to live and I love living here.



Snoqualmie Falls



**DAVID LASKY**  
**COMIC ARTIST, ILLUSTRATOR**  
[HOME.COMCAST.NET/~LASKY.PORTFOLIO](http://HOME.COMCAST.NET/~LASKY.PORTFOLIO)

#### HOW CAN SOMEONE NEW TO TOWN FIND A PLACE TO MEET COMIC ARTISTS?

[Friends of the Nib](#) at [Café Racer](#) was started a couple years ago by Jim Woodring. It's a scooter and motorcycle café on Roosevelt that lets us use their back room every Wednesday for "Comics Night."

Everyone is welcome, especially visitors who are interested in comics. We sit around and draw in our sketchbooks, and we hope that comic artists will know about it and will come by.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK STORES?

[Zanadu Comics](#) is a good all-purpose store that's been around since the '70s, and I also like the [Comics Dungeon](#). [The Zine Archive and Publishing Project \(ZAPP\)](#) in the basement of [Hugo House](#) in Capitol Hill is a library for 'zines and comics. They have open hours where anyone can read or do research, and they do workshops as well.



#### WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE FOR YOU?

If I'm not working, I love going to the [Ballard Library](#) – it's a new building with a grassy sloped roof and every morning there's a little crowd outside waiting for it to open because they love to hang out there. I really like the Ballard neighborhood because there are lots of young people, good restaurants, and it's become a creative hot spot but still has a relaxed industrial vibe. [Sonic Boom](#) is my favorite record store – when I hear something I like on [KEXP](#), I can always find it in that store.

#### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ALTERNATIVE PLACE TO SEE ART?

It seems like more spaces than ever are showing art, and it's been a great thing for me; I've had countless shows in cafes, restaurants, bars, and shops. My first solo show was in a wine bar, where they left the show up for several months, so I was able to send visitors there to see my work as if it was my gallery. Shows like that create a social opportunity in which to see art, and you can discover art by accident when you're having dinner. [Victrola](#) in Capitol Hill is a good place to see rotating monthly solo shows and the coffee is really good. But mostly it happens by accident when I'm running somewhere to get a coffee, for example.



HUGO LUDENA | PHOTOGRAPHER

[WWW.HUGOLUDENA.COM](http://www.hugoludena.com)

#### WHERE IN SEATTLE HAVE YOU LIVED?

As a documentary photographer, I want to get to know different people by living in different neighborhoods, so I've lived in Beacon Hill, Greenwood, Capitol Hill, Burien, Auburn and Downtown Seattle. I would say [Downtown](#) has been my favorite. People in Seattle are really friendly and you can make friends everywhere you go.

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT YOU HAVEN'T LIVED IN?

I love to go to [Alki](#); it's a place to really relax. And [Greenlake](#) is one of my favorite places — it's my small Central Park — I go when I want to be by myself without my camera.

#### HOW DOES LIVING IN SEATTLE INFLUENCE YOUR WORK?

The first thing I documented when I moved to Seattle fifteen years ago was [Festál](#) at [Seattle Center](#). Festál represents diversity in Seattle; it features different cultural traditions all year long, so every community has a chance to demonstrate their music, food, traditions, and language. September is dedicated to [Fiestas Patrias](#), the main celebration for the Latino community. My work started there, and my first exhibition was at [Seattle Public Library](#), showing ten years of that documentation.

#### WHERE DO YOU GO TO SEE PHOTOGRAPHY?

Every month for fifteen years I've been visiting [Benham Gallery](#) next to [SAM](#). It's a place where I learn a lot from other photographers. [SAM Gallery](#) is a good place to see local artists, and the [Photographic Center Northwest](#) is great.

#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WITH YOUR FREE TIME?

I go to [Qwest Field](#) to enjoy the Sounders. A professional soccer team is something we were lacking for many years and, as an immigrant, it's something I missed from my country. Having a team like the Sounders gives the community one more important thing to do in Seattle on the weekends.

If I had to make a choice for the one thing I like to do when I'm not photographing, it's going to the [Pike Place Market](#) because it reminds me of my childhood in South America. It's like somebody moved the market from South America and put it in Seattle, and going there is an instinct for me.

The market also has a newsstand, and my first time there I found a publication from Peru. I also found local Spanish magazines that gave me my first photography jobs. That newsstand is special to me.

#### WHERE WOULD YOU RECOMMEND PEOPLE GO TO SEE ART?

The [Artwalk on First Thursdays in Pioneer Square](#). That's where I meet people and learn from other artists; you get the opportunity to meet the artists and share in the energy from everybody.



PAUL RUCKER  
SOUND & VISUAL ARTIST

[WWW.PAULRUCKER.COM](http://www.paulrucker.com)

#### WHERE DO YOU LIVE AND WORK IN SEATTLE?

I've lived in an artist work space for a long time where the [International District](#) borders [Jackson Street](#). Jackson Street is historical, and my label is called [Jackson St. Records](#). There's a [memorial](#) to jazz musicians on Jackson Street a block from where I live.

#### WHAT WAS IT LIKE CREATING A PROJECT FOR THE MUSEUM OF FLIGHT?

It was my biggest project yet. For anyone who wants to hear my latest music, they can go to [The Museum of Flight](#) to the pedestrian bridge and they'll hear a layered composition that I performed with Hans Teuber who is playing saxophone. I play cello which I interweave with aviation sounds. There are 32 speakers through the tunnel which is pretty amazing. I'm an aviation enthusiast — when I was younger I actually wanted to be a pilot.

#### WHAT ARE THINGS YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

Food. I love great food. I love eating food. You can get a Vietnamese sandwich in the [ID \(International District\)](#) for less than \$2. For restaurants, [Maneki](#) is my favorite place.

The [Earshot Jazz Festival](#) is something I look forward to every year — I've also played it a couple of times. Musicians from all over want to come to play here in Seattle because it's a whole different audience and people know the history of jazz here.

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PLACE TO PERFORM?

[The Chapel in Wallingford](#) — it's in the old historical building, the [Good Shepherd Center](#). It is my absolute favorite place to perform. I performed a solo cello concert there last year and it was just a lot of fun. The [EMP Skychurch](#) is a close second.

#### IS THERE A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN GO TO FIND LISTINGS FOR EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC AND JAZZ CONCERTS?

[Nonsequitur](#) is an organization that helps sponsor concerts of new experimental music ([nseq.blogspot.com](http://nseq.blogspot.com)).

#### AS COMMUNITY ARTS LIAISON FOR THE MAYORS' OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DOES YOUR JOB OVERLAP WITH THE WORK THAT YOU MAKE?

Definitely. One of the programs I manage is the [NCA \(Neighborhood and Community Arts\)](#). Through this I see lots of festivals for my job, and there's never a lack of things to do either for free or a reasonable price. I attended the [Moisture Festival](#) last weekend and I left so inspired! Seeing people who hone their skill, whether it's the African drummers in [The Spirit of West Africa Festival](#) or a great juggler in the Moisture Festival, you just get inspired by people honing a craft. There are so many possibilities out there for creating, and if you are in a nurturing environment, it allows you to try what may seem ridiculous.



**SARAH RUDINOFF**  
WRITER, ACTOR, VOCALIST

[WWW.SARHRUDINOFF.COM](http://WWW.SARHRUDINOFF.COM)

#### IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT SEATTLE THAT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOUR WORK?

Seattle really appreciates and puts collaboration at the forefront. A certain kind of style gets formed in certain cities, and Seattle's is highly theatrical, combining elements of dance, clowning, and music — and that really speaks to me as a singer, comedian, and actress.

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE THEATER?

*On the Boards* is my favorite theater because it's so multidisciplinary. Watching performances there gives me a chance to be in the audience and feel totally inspired. I also like *WET* as an ensemble theater because they're really creative and have a lot of energy. The last show I saw by *Pacific Northwest Ballet* was just stunning. I love going to performances at *McCaw Hall* because it feels like one of those old New York spaces that's accommodating to everybody.

#### IS THERE A LOCAL THEATER THAT YOU THINK DESERVES MORE RECOGNITION?

I'm a huge fan of *Re-Bar*, especially their Brown Derby series, which is film scripts being performed on stage. They're highly campy and the shows are packed. To me, that's a huge part of Seattle: the irreverent, young, outrageous theater.

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD?

*Georgetown* — there's the *Fantagraphics* store next to *Georgetown Records*, *All City Coffee*, and *Nine Pound Hammer*, which is my favorite bar in the city. If you want to feel the industrial vibe of what Seattle was like fifteen years ago, it's there.

#### ANYTHING ELSE YOU LIKE TO DO WITH YOUR FREE TIME?

Roller derby! It's amazing, and it's insane. The *Rat City Rollergirls* compete at *KeyArena*. There's a major culture around that, but it's still under the radar for most people.

#### WHAT ABOUT SEATTLE DO PEOPLE FIND SURPRISING?

People are surprised how close we are to the outdoors. A great day trip that I take friends to all the time is the *Olympic Hot Springs*. You take the ferry to Bremerton, then drive to the *Olympic National Park* where the hot springs are. It's a nice two mile walk, and you can be back by the evening. That's a perfect Seattle thing.



Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

[www.visitseattle.org/cultural](http://www.visitseattle.org/cultural)



**SABZI | DJ, PRODUCER**

[WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SABZI](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SABZI)

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD?

Definitely *Beacon Hill*, which is where I live and where a lot of my friends live. Beacon Hill is my favorite because it's in the city and it's near the highway, but it's not urban — like a little urban oasis. I also like *White Center* because it's flat — I always wished when I was little, living here, that there would be more flat areas for me to ride my bike.

#### HOW IS SEATTLE IMPORTANT TO YOUR WORK AS A MUSICIAN AND PERFORMER?

Aside from the personal fulfillment I get, it's one of the biggest factors in what we do. We would really like to create opportunities for the next generation; it's about a homegrown identity. We want to try to show that young people have a voice here and can develop it.

#### WHERE WOULD YOU TAKE VISITORS?

I like to give a sense of the differences between neighborhoods. We'll go visit historical spots like *Jackson Street* because of all the jazz history and the *Wing Luke Asian Museum*. Then maybe walk around north *Capitol Hill*. Tucked in that area are incredible mansions and houses — you would never know they were there. We'll go to *Alki* for a nice view, or maybe drive out to Issaquah — if you go to the tops of the hills over there and get the right angle on a clear night, you can see Bellevue, Mercer Island, Tukwila, and a big slice of Seattle skyline.

#### IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT SEATTLE THAT YOU THINK WOULD SURPRISE VISITORS?

A lot of people who have contributed to American culture are from here, or spent a lot of time here, like Ray Charles, Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Lee, and Quincy Jones, who lived in Bremerton.



Wing Luke Asian Museum

[www.visitseattle.org/cultural](http://www.visitseattle.org/cultural)



**GERARD SCHWARZ | MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
[WWW.SEATTLESYMPHONY.ORG](http://WWW.SEATTLESYMPHONY.ORG)

#### WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SEATTLE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES?

I am a great fan of opera, and I go to almost every production of the [Seattle Opera](#). I enjoy chamber music and attend performances of the [Seattle Chamber Players](#), the [Seattle Chamber Music Festival](#), and other chamber groups. I love the theater, and we have so many wonderful production houses such as [ACT](#), [On the Boards](#), [Intiman](#), and the [Seattle Repertory Theatre](#). I regularly visit our museums, and check out [Pacific Northwest Ballet](#), [The Paramount](#), [5th Avenue Theatre](#), or attend a recital at the [University](#) when I am able. So, I guess one could say that I partake in all the cultural activities of the city!

#### ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL PLACES YOU LIKE TO GO FOR ARTISTIC INSPIRATION?

My work is done very much alone in a room — even though I love walking in my [Queen Anne](#) neighborhood, basically my artistic inspiration comes from looking at the notes on the page.

#### WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO TAKE VISITORS?

I love to wow visitors with the view from Queen Anne's [Kerry Park](#), or from [West Seattle](#) with a look back to the city. I also take visitors to [Benaroya Hall](#), [McCaw Hall](#), the museums, and our gorgeous new [library](#) downtown.

#### DESCRIBE A PERFECT DAY WITH A VISITING FRIEND?

A morning walk in [Myrtle Edwards Park](#), and a museum visit; then a walk along the beaches of [Alki](#), and a little browsing in the [International District](#), [Pioneer Square](#) and, of course, [Pike Place Market](#). Or, a trip to [Woodinville](#) to enjoy the wineries, coming back to enjoy the view of the city from the [Space Needle](#), or a sunset from one of our many beautiful parks.

#### WHAT ONE THING ARE PEOPLE MOST SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT SEATTLE?

I think they are surprised to realize what a tremendous cultural center we are, the high level of our educational and medical institutions, and the openness and sophistication of our city.



The view from Kerry Park



**LYNN SHELTON | FILMMAKER**  
[WWW.LYNNSHELTON.NET](http://WWW.LYNNSHELTON.NET)

#### HOW DID YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE IN SEATTLE?

I grew up in Seattle and moved to New York City in my twenties, but came back to raise my son here. I'm currently living in [Greenwood](#) but have lived all over the city at various points in time.

#### WHERE DO YOU ENJOY GOING WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

One of my favorite spots in the city is [Volunteer Park](#). I have fond childhood memories of scaling the slippery granite of Isamu Noguchi's Black Sun sculpture and "riding" the camels outside the [Asian Art Museum](#) (a building I still love to visit, as much for its architecture as for its art.) Roaming through the sweet, humid air of the flora-filled [conservatory](#) and watching the sunset from the top of the [water tower](#) rate pretty high as well.

#### DOES THE CITY INSPIRE YOUR WORK?

Seattle is a beautiful place to work as a filmmaker. I think it's the community of talented and tremendously supportive peers that I love about it the most. In my own discipline but in others as well, I feel constantly challenged and inspired by all the artists, musicians and writers around me in this city. My third film, *Humpday*, was shot in [Phinney Ridge](#) and was bought by Magnolia Pictures at Sundance in 2009.

#### WHAT'S YOUR IDEA OF A PERFECT DAY IN SEATTLE?

A morning walk along the shores of [Golden Gardens](#), brunch in [Fremont](#), a canoe ride and picnic at the [Arboretum](#), a movie at the [Northwest Film Forum](#), and live music followed by a nightcap in [Ballard](#).

#### I IMAGINE YOU HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES IN SEATTLE SINCE YOUR CHILDHOOD — ARE THERE ANY NEWER PLACES WHERE YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT?

My family loves libraries and the newly renovated ones throughout Seattle are a total delight to us. We mostly frequent the ones north of the ship canal — [Broadview](#), [Wedgwood](#), [Greenwood](#), [Ballard](#) — with an occasional visit to the splendid [Central library](#) as a special treat.



Seattle Central Library



**BARTLETT SHER | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
[WWW.INTIMAN.ORG](http://WWW.INTIMAN.ORG)

#### WHERE DO YOU TAKE VISITORS?

I have something I think of as the Bookstore Tour – it's the walk from [Elliott Bay Books](#) in Pioneer Square to [Peter Miller Bookstore](#) in Belltown, which is one of the best architecture bookstores in the world. You can stop at the galleries, the library, [Pike Place Market](#), [Seattle Art Museum](#), and the [Olympic Sculpture Park](#). On one level it's bookstores, and on another level it's libraries, museums, and a sculpture park. And that's the heart and the brains of the city.

If you have a car, drive across the [Ballard Bridge](#) to see [Fishermen's Terminal](#), the largest fishing seaport in the U.S., and then head to the [Ballard Farmers Market](#) around 10 a.m. on a Sunday morning. There are some extraordinary specialty stores and antique shops, and the market food is the best you can get, particularly in the summer.

Seattle has one of the best zoos in the country. [The Woodland Park Zoo](#) is really my favorite zoo in the United States. It has wonderful exhibits on a very human scale, including a butterfly tent and an amazing enclosure for tigers, jaguars, and orangutans. It's a wonderful place to spend an afternoon.

The most unique thing about Seattle and one of the reasons I live here, is the [Seattle Center](#) itself. It has cultural institutions like the [Seattle Repertory Theatre](#), the [Seattle Shakespeare Company](#), and [Seattle Children's Theatre](#) as well as [Intiman](#). Plus, it has [Experience Music Project](#), the [Key Arena](#), and the [Pacific Science Center](#). It's lively day and night.

I also like to take the [ferry to Bainbridge Island](#) and go to the [Bloedel Reserve](#). You have to make a reservation. It has these tremendous grounds and is beautifully preserved. There's a great interpretive nature guide and it's about a two-mile walk all the way around it.

#### WHAT DO YOU FIND SPECIAL ABOUT SEATTLE?

What I love about living in Seattle is that people are here because of the way they live as much as where they live. It's a place which prizes health, environment, architecture; it's wonderful for kids, and it's spectacularly beautiful to live here.

#### IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT SEATTLE THAT YOU THINK PEOPLE DON'T KNOW?

You can't know all of Seattle's beauty from the first look. You have to look a little bit past the layers to know that these things are here.



Fishermen's Terminal



**PRESTON SINGLETARY | GLASS ARTIST**  
[WWW.PRESTONSINGLETARY.COM](http://WWW.PRESTONSINGLETARY.COM)

#### HOW HAS SEATTLE INFLUENCED YOUR WORK?

Anything that I was interested in doing was happening here, whether music or glass, and many people moved here for the same reasons, so I never had to look elsewhere for my interests. It was an incredible opportunity, to work with glass through practical experience. I didn't go to a university to learn how to blow glass — I learned right here.

#### ARE YOU STILL A MUSICIAN?

Yes, actually, I have a band called [Little Big Band](#) that I've put together that's like performance art with a Native focus; I call it a Native funk band.

#### WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO YOU LIKE TO DO AS A FAMILY?

We like to get out around the Northwest, hiking, or to the [San Juan Islands](#), as well as the coast. My father is a big outdoorsman, and he does a lot of white water rafting and fly fishing. We can do that on the [Duwamish](#), about an hour outside of Seattle. Everything is nearby — nature is really accessible.

#### WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO TAKE VISITORS?

Almost everybody is taken to see [Snoqualmie Falls](#), and then we go through [North Bend](#) and tell them that's where *Twin Peaks* was filmed. Another favorite is [Marsh Island](#), where you can rent canoes and rowboats from the University of Washington by [Husky Stadium](#).

#### WHERE CAN VISITORS SEE YOUR WORK?

I have a large piece at the [Seattle Art Museum](#). It's a wall panel that's essentially hung like a giant painting and is based on a house screen from the interior of a tribal house.

#### WHAT IS IT THAT YOU LOVE ABOUT SEATTLE?

I love the environment, the air, the mountain ranges, and just living around so much water. And being able to drive over the [Montlake](#) or [Aurora Bridge](#) every day shows just an amazing view — there's a view of [Mount Rainier](#) behind the city as you drive south on Aurora, and it's so surreal because the mountain just dwarfs the city, poking up behind.

#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR WALLINGFORD NEIGHBORHOOD?

I like [Gasworks Park](#), which I went to as a kid. It's cool to have grown up with that and now be able to take my kids there.



Gasworks Park









## GEORGETOWN

9 lb Hammer  
All City Coffee  
Fantagraphics  
Georgetown Records

## WEST SEATTLE

Alki Beach  
Jack Block Park

## SOUTH SEATTLE

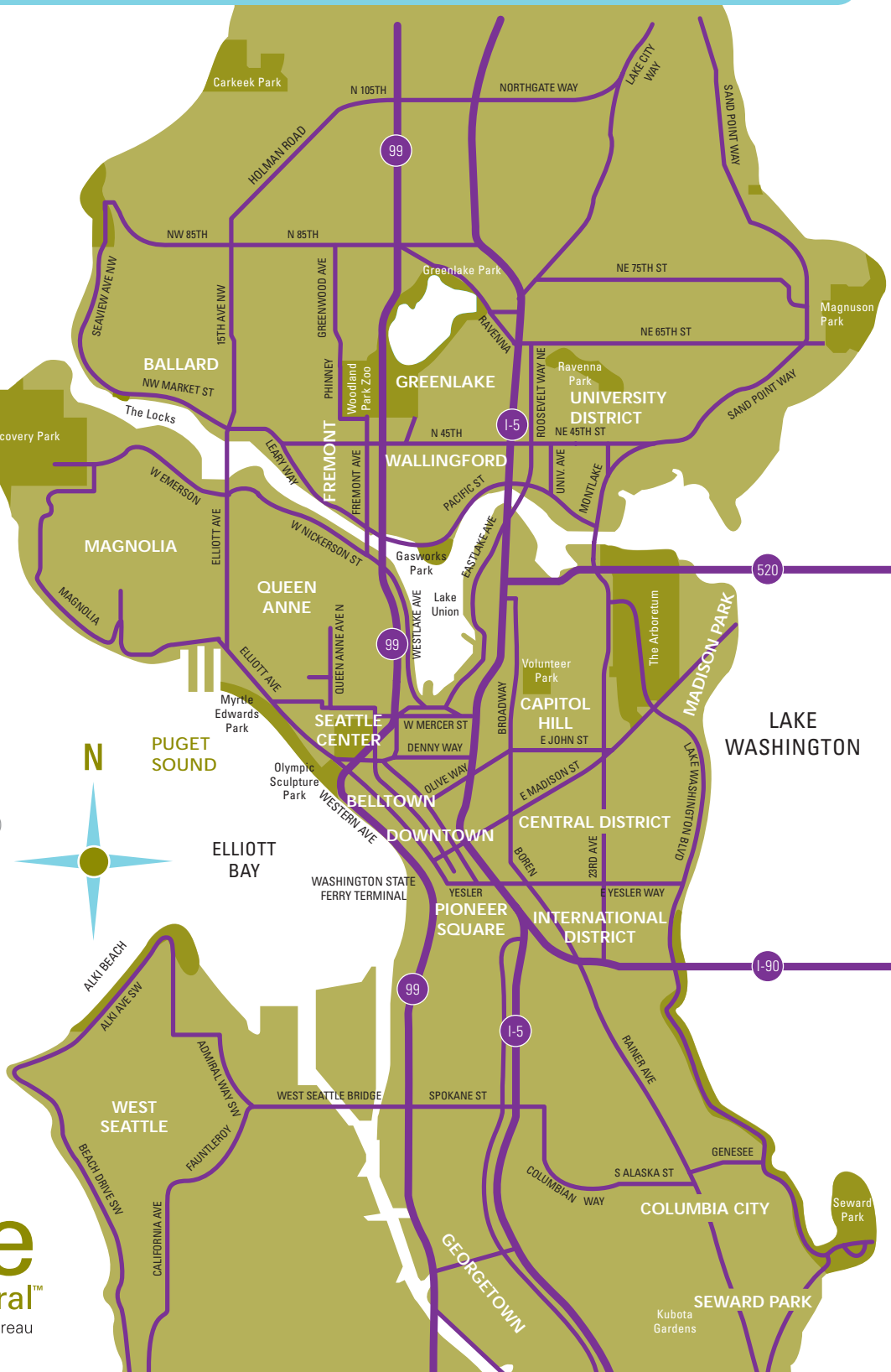
The Museum of Flight

## REGIONAL

Bainbridge Island/Bloedel Reserve  
Cedar River  
Deception Pass  
Duwamish River  
Issaquah  
Mt. Rainier National Park  
North Cascades National Park  
Olympic National Park  
Oysterville - Long Beach Peninsula  
Pilchuck Glass School  
Port Townsend/Centrum  
Olympia  
San Juan Islands  
Snoqualmie Falls  
Whidbey Island  
Woodinville

## VARIOUS VENUES

Earshot Jazz Festival  
Moisture Festival  
Northwest Bead Society  
Rat City Roller Girls  
Seattle Chamber Music Festival  
Seattle Chamber Players  
Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF)  
Spectrum Dance Theatre



# Seattle

metronatural™

Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau



Artists' Guide project managers Tracey Wickersham, Seattle's Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Jess Van Nostrand, Independent Curator, at Olympic Sculpture Park.

Photo by Alice Wheeler.

This project was created by the Cultural Tourism Program of Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau, with funding from 4Culture (King County Lodging Tax), the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs. We would like to thank all the artists who participated in this project for taking time to share their enthusiasm about our city.

Visit us on the web at [www.visitseattle.org/cultural](http://www.visitseattle.org/cultural) for expanded interviews, updates and printable guides, and additional information on featured cultural sites. This web site also offers a comprehensive searchable calendar of cultural events including exhibits, performances and festivals. In Seattle, stop by the Seattle Visitor Center at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center on Pike Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, for a full range of information to enhance your visit.

**Content development:** Jess Van Nostrand, Curator

**Design & production:** David Newman

*Special thanks to Tip Top Creative for design/production of 1st ed.*

Photo credits:

All images are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License unless otherwise noted below.

Front cover:

Seattle Public Library • EMP/SFM and Space Needle • Pike Place Market by SCVB • Alexander Calder's *Eagle* at Olympic Sculpture Park by Paul Warchol • Benaroya Hall by Lara Swimmer

Inside front cover:

James Turrell's *Light Reign*, Henry Art Gallery © 2003 by Lara Swimmer.

Inside:

Tom Skerriitt by Ash Beck • Seattle Art Museum by Eduardo Calderón • Madison Park by Jennifer Day • Sarah Rudinoff by Michael Doucett • Timothy Egan by Sophie Egan • Jane Eaglen at Safeco Field and Gerard Schwarz in his Office by Jules Frazier • Chris Ballew Crowd Surfing by Joanne Hendriks • Seattle Symphony at Benaroya Hall by Fred Housel • Preston Singletary in his Studio by Russell Johnson • Blue Scholars by Ryan Lewis • Hugo Ludeña at Pike Place Market by Hugo Ludeña • McCaw Hall by Rozarii Lynch • Lynn Shelton at Site of *Humpday* Film Shoot by Mike Siegel, Seattle Times • Velocity Dance Center by Tim Summers • Bartlett Sher by Team Photogenic • Pike Place Market by Tim Thompson • Juan Alonso at Edmunds St. Station, Etienne Cakpo at Volunteer Park, John Grade at Discovery Park, Ariana Lallone on Elliott Bay, David Lasky in Ballard, Paul Rucker at The Museum of Flight, Anna Skibska in Fremont, Akio Takamori at Ballard Locks, Barbara Thomas in Seward Park, Cynthia Toops in the University District, and Alice Wheeler along the Duwamish River by Alice Wheeler.

THE ARTISTS' GUIDE TO SEATTLE IS SPONSORED BY:

Seattle  
metronatural™  
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau



CULTURE  
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

THE PAUL G. ALLEN  
FAMILY *foundation*



Seattle  
metronatural™  
Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau

One Convention Place | 701 Pike Street, Suite 800 | Seattle, WA 98101  
206.461.5800 | [www.visitseattle.org](http://www.visitseattle.org)