



Media & Press Kit

This information packet will be useful in learning more about our organization.
For further inquiries, please visit our website:

www.celticarts.org

or contact Skye K. Richendrfer at 360-416-4934

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Background

The Celtic Arts Foundation sponsors, encourages, and promotes Celtic culture through community festivals, events, and education programs. Since 1995, we have hosted renowned musicians and artists from the international, national, and regional Celtic arts communities to provide world-class performances, concerts, and instruction. We give opportunities for musicians and artists to perform, and for community members to experience, traditional Celtic art forms.

We believe it is possible to celebrate our cultural uniqueness and share it at the same time. Celtic Arts Foundation (CAF) programs and marketing literature demonstrate our efforts to be inclusive while also honoring important traditions from our own rich cultural heritage. Our programs and events have flourished due to an over-arching commitment to quality and the strategic and hard work of our staff, volunteers and board.

The Celtic Arts Foundation is about:

- Connecting people to their ancestry through Celtic music, dance and traditions
- Sharing the joy and excitement of our culture with diverse populations regardless of ethnicity
- Providing opportunities for aspiring Celtic artists to receive world-class instruction

The Celtic Arts Foundation became a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1998, and has a proven track record of producing quality, family-oriented programs in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. A membership organization with a strong and growing member base, we aim to “entertain and inspire” with our programs, and to be a model organization for other non-profits.

Fact Sheet

Description

A Celtic cultural and arts organization, that produces events and supports aspiring Celtic artists in the greater Puget Sound area of Washington State. Many of our programs feature noted performers from the United Kingdom and Canada.

Mission

The mission of the Celtic Arts Foundation is to “*sponsor, encourage and promote Celtic culture through events and educational activities.*”

What we do

1. Produce events:

- The Robert Burns Scottish Evening each January since 1991
- The Masters of Scottish Arts Concert in Seattle/Tacoma each February
- The *Winter School* at Seabeck, WA each February
- The annual Celtic Arts Foundation Highland Dancing Championship in February
- A St. Patrick’s Day membership celebration
- A Scotch-tasting gala each May sampling rare and exotic single malt Scotch whiskies
- The Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival each July since 1995 (attendance: 10,000+ people)
- The *Scottish Smallpipes & Fiddle Workshop* each October since 2011
- A traditional Scottish breakfast each November since 2014
- Sponsor and host monthly music sessions for Celtic musicians since 2010
- Produce and present events for touring Celtic artists at the *Littlefield Celtic Center* since 2015

2. Education and perpetuation of our art forms:

- Award grants and scholarships to aspiring artists engaged in Celtic arts (bagpiping, dancing, Highland athletics, etc.); approximately \$10,000 per year
- Purchase musical instruments, uniforms and related equipment for individuals, bands and other organizations engaged in Celtic activities
- Sponsor instructional workshops featuring top traditional musicians from Scotland, Ireland, Canada and the US

3. Successful charitable activities:

- \$200,000 capital campaign for an outdoor stage at Edgewater Park in downtown Mount Vernon in 2002-2003; constructed by CAF and given to the City of Mount Vernon
- Significant gifts awarded by CAF to the capital campaigns of McIntyre Performing Arts Center (\$15,000) and the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon (\$15,000) in 2002
- Numerous scholarships and grants to aspiring artists and Celtic organizations; life-to-date total exceeds \$100,000

4. Success capital campaign:

- \$2.5 million capital campaign from May 2012-December 2015
- Approximately 105 donors from eight US States and two Canadian Provinces, plus one tribal nation

5. *Littlefield Celtic Center construction*

- October, 2012, CAF purchases property located at 1124 Cleveland Avenue, Mount Vernon, WA
- March, 2013-May, 2014 extensive remodel of office space
- October, 2014, CAF receives \$1.1 million gift from Mr. & Mrs. Laura & Edmund Wattis Littlefield, Jr.
- October 24, 2014, ground breaking ceremony for construction of new 3790 square foot event space to be named the “Littlefield Celtic Center”
- June, 2015, construction completed and new facility comes online—first events held
- June, 2015, grant award of \$245,000 from the Murdock Charitable Trust for audio, video and kitchen equipment
- October 2015, audio system installed
- December, 2015, kitchen equipment installed
- May, 2017, CAF is presented with a “Citation Award” by the American Institute of Architects, recognizing the excellent design of the Littlefield Celtic Center
- July, 2016, video and theater lighting systems installed

Noteworthy

Produced by CAF, the annual Masters of Scottish Arts Concert held in February features many of the best bagpipers, Scottish drummers, fiddlers and Highland Dancers in the World. Direct from Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Canada, the performers represent the most award-winning assemblage to be seen in a concert setting in North America.

The Celtic Arts Foundation has received recognition and awards from both State and international organizations for various aspects of our programming. We have hosted multiple National Championship events for Scottish Fiddling, and through a competitive process were selected to host the 2005 US National Scottish Highland Dancing Championships.

In 2008, the Board of Directors of the Seattle-based Mastery of Scottish Arts non-profit organization determined to merge with the Celtic Arts Foundation. Through this merger, CAF assumed the responsibility for continuing the Masters of Scottish Arts programs (described below). The new larger Celtic Arts Foundation is successfully pursuing its mission, providing valuable educational opportunities, and making community connections.

CAF Executive Director Skye Richendrfer received the Washington State Governor’s Heritage Award in 2008 for his work in promoting Celtic art and culture. This award is presented annually to individuals who make significant contributions to creativity and the cultural heritage of Washington State.

In 2015, Richendrfer was also recognized by Macalester College with its Distinguished Citizen Award, “recognizing contributions and accomplishments in the public and non-profit sectors.”

Through a competitive process, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded grants to support CAF programming in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2016.



September, 2012



April, 2016

Board List

(2016)

- Walter Briggs, President; Olalla, WA. Walter is a retired US Navy Forester and Administrator.
- Patty Dunn, Vice President; Anacortes, WA. Retired municipal land use planner and assistant City Manager in Humboldt, CA
- Jan Gould, CPA, Treasurer; Seattle, WA. Retired CFO of First Sound Bank in Seattle, WA.
- David Ryberg, Secretary; Mount Vernon, WA. Stock broker, with McAdams, Wright Ragen in Mount Vernon.
- Marilyn McLean, Attorney at Law, Board Member; Bellingham, WA. Marilyn is a tribal attorney with the Lummi Nation.
- Jim Monroe, Ph.D., Board Member; Mount Vernon, WA. Retired from the faculty of Skagit Valley College.
- Tyrone Heade, Board Member; Seattle, WA. Self-employed as bagpiper for hire in greater Puget Sound region.
- Bill Babb, Board Member; Camano Island, WA. Transportation logistics consultant

Emeritus Board Members

- Skye K. Richendrfer, Mount Vernon, WA
- William J. Toomey, CPA; Mount Vernon, WA
- Mary Scott, Mount Vernon, WA
- Judge John M. Meyer, Mount Vernon, WA
- G. Michael Riedel, Board Member; Hillsboro, OR
- Melissa Chittenden, Seattle, WA
- Scott Peterson, Camano Island, WA
- Jill Hilde, Mount Vernon, WA
- Craig Sjostrom, Mount Vernon, WA

Contact Sheet

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