

DRN Board Elections

Enclosed in this edition of *Network News*, you will find your 2005 Network Board Elections Ballot. Three positions are open this year on the Downtown Renaissance Network Board of Directors. Please cast your ballot in time for the May 18, 2005 Quarterly Meeting. Ballots will be tallied and the new Board announced on that date. You must be a currently paid member of the Network in order to vote. One vote per membership. If you have questions please contact 527-8710 or e-mail kirsten@downtownbellingham.com.

!!!!!!! VOTE TODAY !!!!!!!

Bella Umbrella Contest May 20th



Along with May flowers comes the 4th annual Bella Umbrella Contest. Umbrellas will be available for decoration starting April 30th at downtown locations: Academic Outfitters, Allied Arts, Downtown Hound, Downtown Renaissance Network, Eagles Games, Models & Miniatures, The Greenhouse, Hemp Emporium, Kids Northwest, and Whatcom Children's Museum.

Categories for the kid event this year include 'Wildly Wacky', 'Positively Pretty' and 'Truly True to Theme'. Adult event categories include 'Outrageously Original', 'Chock-full of Color', and 'Truly True to Theme'. Decorated umbrellas may be dropped off for judging on Tuesday May 17th from 11-5 and Wednesday May 18th from 11-6 at 1302 Commercial Street.

All entrants are encouraged to participate in the Jr. Ski to Sea Parade on Friday, May 20th and the many fun filled activities to follow. Following the parade prizes will be awarded at the Bella Umbrella Awards Ceremony which will take place at 7:30 at the City Hall, with Mayor Mark Asmundson as emcee and presenter.

We are seeking 3 judges for the contest, as well as donated prizes for this year's winners. Please contact 527-8710 if you are interested.

Murder Mystery Masquerade Ball A Success!

On March 19, the Downtown Renaissance Network hosted approximately 100 guests for the first annual Downtown Murder Mystery Masquerade Ball. Guests arrived in a spectacular array of gowns, sequins, feathers, and other masquerade attire. The guests and décor providing a festive atmosphere for an intriguing downtown mystery in which the Downtown Maintenance Program's own Peter Gunn was revealed as the culprit.

The event raised critical funds to support Network events and programs which benefit all of Downtown Bellingham. Thank you to the event committee and dedicated volunteers who contributed to the event's success, including Janet Hodgin, Pat Brown, Abigail & Brent Hienmann, Celeste Patton, Justin Flowers, and Andrea Bruch. The Network is especially grateful to Becki Lawson for writing this year's mystery and for donating the grand prize, a 5-course wine tasting dinner for 6 at Du Jour Bistro.



Bellingham featured in April on KPLU

As part of their Northwest Neighborhoods series, KPLU is featuring Bellingham on its website for the month of April. Downtown Renaissance Network purchased a link for Downtown Bellingham on the KPLU page: kplu.org.

New members needed for Downtown Renaissance Network Committees

One to two Network members are needed to join DRN Board members on our four organizational clusters, the clusters meet only as needed. For further information or to participate contact 527-8710.

Finance & Administration: Maintenance and Facilities, Budget, Legal, Insurance, and Audit.

Management: Human Resources, Board Nominations, and Program issues.

Resource Development: Fundraising, Member Recruitment, Events, Marketing & PR, and other revenues.

Member Services: Board Development, Networking, Business Retention & Recruitment, Communications, Design.



Downtown Sounds to Liven Up Downtown's Summer Sponsorships Opportunities Available

Every Wednesday
June 29-July 20
5:30-9:00PM

Sponsor a Band!

Sponsorships are still available on selected nights.

Current Sponsors:

Comcast (*series sponsor*),
Otion, Wild Buffalo,
Nightlight Lounge,
Bellingham Weekly, Avenue
Bread, Black Drop
Coffeeshouse, Brenthaven, City
of Bellingham, *Volunteer
Sponsors*: Sustainable
Connections, Whatcom
Humane Society, Opportunity
Council, Explorations
Academy, Kulshan
Community Land Trust

This summer, the Downtown Renaissance Network with the support of our sponsors will bring music to downtown's streets with Downtown Sounds, a series of live concerts for the entire family. Downtown Sounds will be held in the alley between Holly St. (near Wild Buffalo & Mindport) and the Brown & Cole parking lot every Wednesday from 5:30 pm-9 pm from June 29th-July 20th. Each night will include performances by local and regional bands, free of charge. Adding to the festivities, local food vendors and beverage sales will be present.

Goals for Downtown Sounds:

- Raise Awareness & Visibility for Downtown Bellingham
- Bolster Business in Downtown
- Community Building
- Showcase Local Non-profit Organizations
- Showcase creative use of existing space
- Encourage a safe, festive after work environment in downtown
- Support the Downtown Renaissance Network

The alley will be cleaned and pressure washed and dumpsters will be moved out to create an intriguing performance venue. The Network received a Small & Simple Grant from the City to hire an Event Coordinator for the concert series and secured Comcast as a series sponsor. Downtown Sounds also creates new opportunities for our members to promote their businesses and to stay open late on concert nights, contact the Network if you are interested in participating in this event.



Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Downtown Dollars are accepted at over 55 Downtown shops, galleries, museums, theatres, and much more!

www.DowntownBellingham.com



The Downtown Renaissance Network is proud to be a Supporting Sponsor of the **Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local** campaign. To participate, contact 360.647.7093 or e-mail Michelle@Sconnect.org.

Upcoming Events Downtown

Farmer's Market Season

Began Saturday, April 2
(every Saturday through October, 10am-3pm)

Sustainable Connections Business Conference

Friday, April 22, 9am-5pm
You're no ordinary business leader. This is no ordinary business conference. 647-7093, sconnect.org

Children's Gallery Walk

Friday, May 6, 6-9pm

Procession of Species

Saturday, May 7

Network Quarterly Meeting and Board Elections

Wednesday, May 18 6-8pm

Annual Bella Umbrella Contest

Friday, May 20

Bike to Work Day (getoutthebike.com)

Friday, May 20

National Active Older Adult Day

Thursday, May 26

All Seniors Welcome, YMCA

Downtown Inventory Identifies over 700 businesses in Downtown

In conjunction with the WWU Management Department and the Center for Service Learning, the Network has completed the first phase of the downtown products and services inventory. The project aims to document products and services currently available in Downtown Bellingham as a first step in developing a downtown directory. In addition to a directory, the Network plans to partner with the Small Business Development Center and a second WWU class to conduct a gap analysis of the inventory results to identify what is missing downtown for visitors, residents, businesses, and other downtown stakeholders. This information will prove useful in business recruitment and retention. Information from the inventory should be available for use in the next six months.



Downtown Renaissance Network Board of Directors Ballot – 2005

The Downtown Renaissance Network is pleased to announce our first annual Board of Directors Election. The following Board nominees were selected by the Network Nominations Committee for this year's three positions. Please select **three** names from the following slate of candidates and return your ballot to the Downtown Renaissance Network by May 18. The final vote will be tallied for the May 18 Quarterly meeting at the Mount Baker Theatre Encore Room.

2005 Board Candidates

Cindy Meche

Occupation:
Owner
Sew & Sew

Statement:

As a downtown business owner, resident, and property owner, I believe Downtown Bellingham is the center of the Bellingham community and I am dedicated to continuing to making it a viable place for all of us. I have worked in downtown for the majority of the last 34 years, starting as a tailor's apprentice in a men's clothing store and continuing in this line of work today as owner of Sew & Sew.

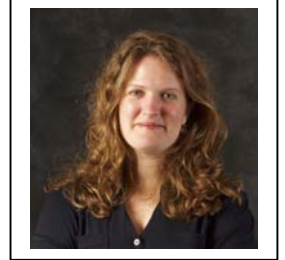
In addition to my work downtown, I've lived in the heart of downtown for the past five years and feel this is my neighborhood. I like knowing everyone on my block and enjoy the friendliness of my resident and business neighbors. I have always been behind downtown and was excited when the Downtown Renaissance Network started because it provides one place for the entire downtown community to utilize as an information center, a networking mechanism, and a voice for downtown.

I am interested in serving on the DRN Board of Directors in order to contribute to downtown and continue to build the DRN into a comprehensive network for our downtown neighborhood. If selected, I look forward to helping out with DRN programs, events, and issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shannon McGuire

Occupation:
Owner
Spinnaker Photo
Imaging Center



Statement:

As a Bellingham resident for the past five years and the owner of Spinnaker Photo Imaging, issues and progress in Bellingham directly affect me. I moved here from living abroad and have chosen this area as my home because I am enthralled by the beauty of the land and the mindsets of its residents.

As a local downtown business owner, I not only take pride in the development of commerce but also care about the issues facing downtown merchants and residents. I have been able to give of my time and resources to various organizations which promote the standards and values I share. I am interested in furthering my involvement and taking a more active role in helping to troubleshoot problems as well as coming up with effective game plans and strategies to promote Bellingham.

I have been impressed with the levels of involvement the Downtown Renaissance Network has in various events and programs which improve Bellingham's future and welfare. I would like to offer my ideas of enhancing those which are already in existence, as well as potentially generating ideas for future promotions, events or fundraisers.

Thank you for your consideration of my involvement with your organization.

More Candidates and Ballot on Back!

2005 Board Candidates

Marilyn Morrissey



Occupation:
Co-owner
Dragonfly Fine Gifts

Statement

Marilyn Morrissey is fairly new to Bellingham, having relocated to the area almost 3 years ago with her husband, Richard. She is co-owner of Dragonfly Fine Gifts on Holly Street in Downtown Bellingham.

Both Marilyn and her partner, Pauline Baldie, are deeply committed to the growth and revitalization of Bellingham's city center, hence their decision to open their business downtown. They joined the Downtown Renaissance Network even before opening their doors to the public.

As a Board member, Marilyn would be committed to the goals and mission of the Network, and serve as an advocate for the improvement and maintenance of Bellingham's City Center.

Marilyn brings over 30 years experience in the arena of business, healthcare and organizational development/training. Marilyn, also a Career and Life Coach, is a strong advocate of discovering one's passion and fully developing one's potential. She has provided expertise in leadership and team-building programs, as well as personal growth and development.

Previously Mrs. Morrissey worked with companies such as UPS, Starbucks, Nordstrom and NutriSystem in Operations and Human Resources. Marilyn is a member of the National Career Development Association, Organizational Development Network, the Whatcom Horticultural Society and the Seattle Rose Society. She earned an MA in Organizational Management from The Fielding Graduate Institute and has been certified as a Career and Life Coach through the Life Purpose Institute™

Ginger Oppenheimer



Occupation:
Member/Marketing Manager
Community Food Co-op

Statement:

I've lived in Bellingham since 1983—nearly 22 years—watching our city center die a little, languish, and then slowly sputter back to life. Today I get a sense of excitement and enthusiasm as the arts, cultural, and business environments work together to forge a renewed, vital Bellingham. Downtown Renaissance Network is instrumental in that renewal and I hope to contribute by serving on DRN's board of directors.

I have a lot to offer: I'm a long-time resident, I've worked in Bellingham for all those years, and I'm dedicated to working cooperatively with the many sectors that make up our city. I've managed a magazine department, was an editor for nearly 15 years, and currently manage the Community Food Co-op's marketing needs. I like looking at the details, but have a good big-picture perspective. In the two-plus decades that I've lived in Bellingham, I've never felt such a sense of anticipation of all the possibilities. In times of change and growth, there are always reasons for pause, but working together we can face and defeat the challenges.

In my current role as the membership and marketing manager of the Community Food Co-op I have the pleasure of being part of the local community waking to the realization that to sustain strong communities, we have to support them from within. That means downtown organizations—of all ilk—supporting one another through a network that builds community for one and all. As the greater Bellingham area grows, it is vital to build and maintain that strong core, one with a positive force for healthy change and growth. Our downtown is coming into its own once again and I would be proud to be part of a group that is helping to guide and define that change.

Thank you.



DOWNTOWN
RENAISSANCE
NETWORK

2005 Downtown Renaissance Network Board of Directors Ballot

IMPORTANT! : To ensure one vote per currently paid member *please provide your last name on the envelope in which you return this ballot.* Your name will not be linked with the results of your vote and all information will remain confidential. Failure to include your name on the envelope may result in vote disqualification. New Board members will be announced at the Quarterly Meeting, May 18 from 6-8pm at the Mount Baker Theatre Encore Room.

Cindy Meche

Shannon McGuire

Marilyn Morrissey

Ginger Oppenheimer

Write-in _____

Vote by
May 18

Return to:
PO Box 1201
Bellingham
98227