



edmonds center for the arts

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Press Contact

Liz Dawson, *Director of Programming & Communications*
liz@ec4arts.org | 425.400.8838

Headshot:

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EDMONDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS NAMES KATHY LIU AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Edmonds, WA) – September 18, 2023 – Edmonds Center for the Arts (ECA), one of the premier performing arts centers in the Pacific Northwest, announces the appointment of **Kathy Liu as ECA's next Executive Director**. Liu will assume the role on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, succeeding ECA's founding Executive Director Joe McIlwain, who reached the end of his tenure after 17 years with the organization in August. **ECA's Associate Executive Director Lori Meagher will serve as Interim Executive Director until Liu comes onboard.**

"Kathy's passion for the performing arts, commitment to community and partnerships, clear investment in ECA's mission, vision, and values, and specifically ECA's commitment to equity and becoming an anti-racist organization, is truly inspiring," said Meagher. "Kathy will be joining a talented team of enthusiasts and I look forward to our partnership as ECA's executive leadership team. I am excited to welcome Kathy's vision for ECA and enhancing our impact in the communities we serve, especially as we enter this next chapter in our organization's history."

Liu's appointment comes after an extensive, nearly year-long executive search. A Leadership Transition Team of staff and ECA and Edmonds Public Facilities District (EPFD) board members was formed in September 2022 to partner with m/Oppenheim Executive Search to find the next executive leader.

EPFD Board President Ray Liaw said, "We feel strongly that Kathy, as ECA's next Executive Director, is the kind of collaborative and dedicated leader who can lead us forward through our strategic planning and visioning of the organization's future. Her strengths in contributed revenue generation, authentic relationship building, and

community engagement and outreach efforts will take ECA to new heights."

As Executive Director, Liu will provide visionary, collaborative, and forward-thinking leadership to advance ECA's strategic plan, and ensure the organization's goals are consistent with the mission, vision, and values. Working in partnership with Associate Executive Director, Lori Meagher, and staff, Liu will help expand recognition of ECA as a premier performing arts center in Washington and beyond, expand education and community engagement experiences to meet the needs of the community, attract a new and diverse generation of performing arts patrons and supporters, and work diligently to ensure the accessibility of inclusivity of ECA and its programs.

"It's an honor to be asked to lead Edmonds Center for the Arts as its second Executive Director following Joe McIalwain," said Liu. "ECA is a strong voice for the performing arts and their impact on a vibrant community, and I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining the ECA team, contributing to its future success. I look forward to immersing myself in the greater Edmonds community and working closely with our external partners. Together with the talented ECA team, I'm eager to continue bringing excellent and exciting artistic programming to Edmonds, Snohomish County, and beyond, and serving our local communities through our dynamic and diverse education and community engagement programs."

"Throughout her career, Liu has led teams of varying sizes and worked closely with Boards, committees, volunteers, local government, and community stakeholders," said **ECA Board President, Lindsay Geyer.** "She brings to ECA a deep dedication to arts and culture, collaboration, diversity, teamwork, and transparent communication. These values will undoubtedly serve her well as she joins the ECA team, lending her experience and skills to stewarding ECA's mission into the future."

ABOUT KATHY LIU

A life long lover of the performing arts, Kathy Liu brings more than 15 years of non-profit arts administration and fundraising experience to ECA. She is most recently Director of Advancement for the Asian Cultural Council, a global arts and culture non-profit, where she heads the marketing/communications and development departments.

Previously, she was Director of Major Gifts for The Metropolitan Opera, where she led a team responsible for \$30M+ in annual gifts alongside special campaign fundraising and various donor and ticketing services. She has held prior leadership roles at New York City Center and American Ballet Theater where her accomplishments included developing and implementing cultural membership benefits for the city-wide IDNYC program, coordinating annual and capital funding between the non-profit organizations and local and national government, and managing artist fellowships. In all of her roles, she has led strategic planning development, working closely with Board members and cross-team staff.

Kathy's leadership and expertise has been recognized in the greater arts field. The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs has invited her to serve multiple terms on the funding panels for music, dance, and multi-disciplinary organizations, and she has presented and taught at various industry conferences.

Kathy is an advocate for art that rises out of communities. She is an amateur violinist and frequently plays with community orchestras and chamber ensembles.

ABOUT EDMONDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Edmonds Center for the Arts (ECA) is a 700-seat performing arts venue located within the City of Edmonds, Washington, 20 minutes north of Seattle. ECA has an established reputation throughout the central Puget Sound region for jewel-box theater presentations of notable live performances, hosting events for diverse regional and community partners, and impactful efforts in education and outreach.

ECA is owned and operated by the Edmonds Public Facilities District (PFD), a publicly funded government agency that renovated the historic Edmonds High School and opened in 2006 as a state-of-the-art performance hall. ECA curates approximately 30 performing artists each season and provides arts education and family programs both within and outside Edmonds. ECA's facilities serve as a home for more than 130 events produced by local and touring performing artists and community organizations. ECA serves more than 90,000 patrons annually.

Edmonds Center for the Arts' programming features a diverse range of music, dance, comedy, and other performances, from modern to classical, from pop and rock to jazz and blues, from folk and world music to Broadway, and regional theatrical performances.

410 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH, EDMONDS, WA 98020 | 425.275.4485 | EC4ARTS.ORG

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