

# Issues Brief

City of Yakima e-Newsletter

## Next “Windows Alive!” Installations Debut in February

Following a very successful first run from late September through early January, the “Windows Alive!” project that fills vacant Downtown Yakima storefronts with works by local artists will officially open its second set of displays on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. A kickoff reception will take place that afternoon from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on the first floor of the JEM Building located at 321 East Yakima Avenue. The six artists chosen to display their work will be on hand at the reception to talk about their pieces.



*A sign in a vacant Downtown Yakima storefront announces the upcoming opening of the next “Windows Alive!” exhibition*

Last year, the Yakima Arts Commission, an advisory group appointed by the Yakima City Council, developed “Windows Alive!” to harness the creativity of Central Washington artists to help invigorate windows of empty downtown storefronts by displaying original works of art. Based on similar projects that have proven successful in other cities, “Windows Alive!” is part of an ongoing effort to bring new life and activity to Downtown Yakima.

Following a submission and evaluation process, six outstanding artists from the region were chosen to be part of the second “Windows Alive!” exhibition, which will run from February 8<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. The six artists who will be

featured, each of whom received a \$250 stipend, are Sandi Drury, Kandice R. Jackson, Lindsey Merrell, Pat Miller, Mike Ritch, and Yvonne Pepin-Wakefield.

“The inaugural ‘Windows Alive!’ displays were very well received by the community,” said Yakima Arts Commission Member Cheryl Hahn. “Having vacant storefront windows filled with beautiful art definitely creates a more engaging and vibrant environment downtown. The project also gives local artists a wonderful opportunity to showcase their work,” said Hahn. “We’re excited and proud to unveil the next set of ‘Windows Alive!’ works and are confident they will be embraced by Yakima.”

In addition to the contributions made to the project by the Yakima Arts Commission, support has also been provided by the City of Yakima, JEM Development, Inc., Doug and Laurie Kanyer, Stems, John Gasperetti, the Capitol Theatre Committee, Action Window Cleaning, David Rogers, David Lynx, the Yakima Bindery, and John Cooper.



*Two men walk past one of the “Windows Alive!” installations that were in place from September of last year through early January. The next set of works created by local artists will formally open February 8<sup>th</sup>.*

## Yakima Police Explorers Post Scores High in State Competition

Members of Yakima Police Department ("YPD") Explorer Post 275 were big winners at the Washington Law Enforcement Explorer Advisors Winter 2013 Academy competition held at the Yakima Training Center. More than 225 cadets from around the state tested their skills and training in law enforcement between December 26<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Eve.

Winning the "Top Cop" award was YPD Explorer Sergeant Omar Hernandez. Only 14 candidates are selected from across the state for the *Academy Police Department* session, and the competition is intense. From the moment they arrive at the academy until the time the academy ends, Explorers are put to the test. "It's as realistic as training can get and Hernandez clearly stood out as the best," said YPD Officer Ira Cavin, who serves as an advisor to the YPD Explorer program.



The YPD Explorer Post also had four complete the "basic" academy. Two of the basic recruits won top awards in physical agility, with Francisco Gardenas placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the male category and recruit Alondra Juarez placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the female category. Recruit Gardenas also won an impromptu push-up challenge against the entire academy by completing 67 push-ups in one minute. Recruit Juarez also won a drill award on the first night of the academy.


The YPD Explorer Post hopes to send eight cadets and two advisors to the National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference this July in Bloomington, Indiana. Established in 1986, the post has a record of bringing home awards and lots of positive recognition for the City of Yakima. The post, which is made up of outstanding young men and women between the ages of 16-20, was named the top Explorer post in Washington State in 2011. The post also took "Advisor of the Year Honors" in 2009.

The YPD Explorer Post currently has 15 cadets who provide thousands of hours of volunteer service each year at special events and parades, staff security details, run errands, and do other tasks that free up uniformed officers to enforce the law.



"This is a great recruiting tool, because it's difficult to find qualified applicants with clean backgrounds who have the skills, abilities, and motivation to become a police officer," says Cavin. "Cultivating our own future officers through the Explorer program definitely is an advantage for the YPD."

Expanding the Explorer program to improve public safety has been identified as a priority in the City of Yakima's Strategic Plan.



*Be Part of the Solution!*

*Help reduce panhandling. Instead of giving money directly to panhandlers, donate to local agencies and organizations that provide services to people who are low-income or homeless.*

**Yakima is our community – Be Part of the Solution!**

## **City/County Buyers Earn Prestigious Professional Credentials**

Two buyers for the combined City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing office have reached a professional milestone by being awarded Certified Public Procurement Officer (“CPPO”) credentials by the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (“UPPCC”). Buyer Susan Knotts and Senior Buyer Maria Mayhue were recently notified of the significant accomplishment by the UPPCC.



***Buyer Susan Knotts (left) and Senior Buyer Maria Mayhue (right), who both work for the City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing office, have earned prestigious Certified Public Procurement Officer credentials from a national organization.***

“This is a big deal,” said City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing Manager Sue Ownby. “Maria earned her Certified Professional Public Buyer (“CPPB”) certification in 2008 and Susan was awarded her CPPB credentials in 2011. Both of them decided not to rest on their laurels and to keep working toward receiving the even more prestigious CPPO designation, which indicates to me their commitment and dedication to their profession,” said Ownby. “I am very proud of them for continuing to build their knowledge and skills so they can provide the highest level of service possible to Yakima taxpayers.”

To be presented with CPPO credentials, Mayhue and Knotts had to meet rigorous education and experience requirements and pass a demanding exam administered by the UPPCC.

In order to maintain the CPPO designation, Mayhue and Knotts will have to be recertified every five years.

Mayhue started working for what was then the City of Yakima Purchasing Division about 17 years ago. Since then, she has been intricately involved in helping navigate significant changes in procurement, including the 2009 consolidation of the City and County purchasing functions, which resulted in formation of the City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing office. In January 2012, Mayhue was named Buyer of the Year by the Washington State Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.

Knotts first came to work for the City’s Purchasing Division in 2003 and has served in several capacities since then. After having initially been hired as a department assistant, Knotts was promoted to the position of purchasing assistant in December 2006. Then, in September 2009 as part of the consolidation of City and County purchasing functions, she was again promoted to her current role as a buyer for the office.

The combined City of Yakima/Yakima County Purchasing office handles more than \$50 million in business each year.

Established in 1978, the UPPCC promotes and elevates professionalism and ethical conduct in public purchasing through its certification programs. The UPPCC’s Certified Public Professional Buyer and Certified Public Purchasing Officer designations are recognized not only in the United States, but also are accredited by the International Federation of Purchasing Supply and Management, which consists of 42 member countries spread across six continents and represents more than 200,000 members worldwide.