



## Green Ribbon Initiatives AWARD

December 4, 2017

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Green Ribbon Initiatives, a non-profit corporation founded in the spring of 2013, is pleased to announce its recognition of significant community partnerships. Recognition is being given to partnerships between Art Works Eagan and 14 partners including the Rotary Club of Eagan, Kick-Start Rotary of Eagan, Eagan Art House, Wescott Library, Glacier Hills Elementary School, Home Federal, Blue CrossBlue Shield of MN, Eagan Sam's Club, Eagan Art Festival Board, Caponi Art Park, The Eagan Foundation, Eagan Artist Connect, Eagan Theater Company, and the City of Eagan Parks and Recreation Department for partnering in a way that enhances the lives of community residents. Partner contributions include financial donations, fund raising efforts, volunteering, promotion and collaborative events.

Creative communities at their best bring innovative solutions to everyday problems. Artists and makers influence the outside world in positive ways. Art Works Eagan offers access to work space, display space, performance space and collaborative work environments.

Community engagement connects people from all walks of life. Connected communities enjoy a higher standard of living and improved overall wellness. Everyone benefits from viewing the world through the eyes of others. Sustainable nonprofit business models are needed to serve our communities. Outside sources enhance funding possibilities and need not be responsible for everyday operations. With a place to call home, Art Works Eagan can sustain itself with varied, mission-related income sources such as studio rental, facility rental and membership fees.

Art Works Eagan has recently secured its own facility in the former Fire Administration Building on the early City Hall location in the center of Eagan and successfully celebrated its initial art show and open house on October 15<sup>th</sup> with many residents in attendance. In the first two weeks alone since purchase of the facility, Art Works Eagan benefitted from more than 200 hours of community volunteerism.

Art Works Eagan clearly demonstrates that partnerships – working together – can and do create more than any one entity can achieve on its own. These partnerships draw many levels of the community together organizationally to accomplish a project. More than a single event, these are on-going partnerships with potential for civic, educational, individual and corporate benefit.

The partnerships formed to accomplish this by Art Works Eagan Art Works of Eagan are highly commendable and obviously effective in creating and developing this dynamic benefit for Eagan, its residents and organizations.

Green Ribbon Initiatives desires to see community engagement awards that:

- Increase the sense of community in Eagan.
- Increase the ability to improve the community at all levels.
- Increase the utilization of volunteers, especially the aging in place.
- Increase awareness of community engagement by a wider circle of persons.
- Recognize community engagement by increasing volunteerism and voter turn out.

Green Ribbon Initiatives was formed for the purpose of identifying and celebrating significant community engagement initiatives and partnerships in Eagan. Awards will be presented to exemplary initiatives in Eagan which build relationships and a collective sense of community in Eagan while promoting sustainable action that strengthens community engagement.

- The recognition process is meant to support and encourage the cultivation, motivation and coordination of multiple levels of community resources available to strengthen community.
- Community engagement is understood as individuals and organizations working together on common interests for mutual benefit and in the interest of the larger community.
- Green Ribbon Initiatives seeks to weave engagement into the community fabric and address barriers to engagement when they are identified.

These partnerships are exemplary and significant and meets all selection criteria; we are pleased and excited to make this award.

Green Ribbon Leadership Team

Jim Borgschatz (president), Gene VanOverbeke, Tom Hedges, Brenda Johnson, Dave Unmacht, Mark Streed, Don Hoeft

More information about Green Ribbon Initiatives Awards, nomination forms, application forms, and ways to help can all be found at [www.greenribbon.info](http://www.greenribbon.info).

Green Ribbon Initiatives continues to solicit community partnerships to recognize as well as friends who are interested in being financial partners and in providing other support.