

July 2021 Our Stories, Redmond Connections

Redmond Mayor Angela Birney

Hello, I'm Mayor Angela Birney and welcome to another video in my monthly "Our Stories, Redmond Connections" series.

It's been said, "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time." Art can also contribute to a community's cultural identity and help create a sense of belonging for its residents. Redmond values the role that art plays in bringing people together, and it continues to promote art and support local artists and cultural arts organizations in their work.

This month, I thought it would be interesting to ask Redmond's very own Poet Laureate and a member of the Arts Commission, who helps develop art regionally, why art is important to Redmond and our community.

Raul Sanchez, Redmond Poet Laureate

You know, maybe this question is best answered in verse.

Redmond believes that art,
is part of our existence.
Art is the color of life, the music in our hearts.
Art transcends race, political leanings,
religion, or status.

We honor the Coast Salish people
through music, dance, poetry, paintings,
sculptures, including pottery all at once!
Art brings us closer to nature,
where the birds perched on the branches high

bring the music of the forest across the urban sky.
You see, that is why art is important to all—
who live here. Art in Redmond strengthens
our collective personality, art that beautifies
our community, our emotional well-being.

And that's why art is important to Redmond and our community.

Latha Sambamurti, Redmond Arts and Culture Commissioner

Art and culture are the backbone of a community. They create opportunities to express points of view and feelings on various topics.

Art and Culture provide ample scope for shared experiences in the community. They foster the right kind of atmosphere for building relationships. They show folks how to build or rebuild a strong community.

Art in public places gives our city a unique identity and shows the civic pride of the residents.

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From my perspective... my childhood home's walls were covered in art (and still are) as my father was an architect and artist. My parents collected and displayed all kinds of pieces. I still seek out opportunities to experience art in any form wherever I am. I was taught that even if you don't particularly like some art it can still provide opportunities to expand how we and others think and experience our world.

Enough about me; I'm interested in hearing your thoughts. In the comments, please share why art is important to you and our community using the hashtag #RedmondConnections.

And before I close, did you know the City has its very own public art collection? Much of the artwork can be found outdoors, so download our Public Art Walking Map and see how art enhances our community firsthand.

Thank you for making Redmond and our community a great place to live, work, and create. See you next time.