

Placemaking, a buzzword used often in urban development, is ideally a way to capitalize on and celebrate a local community's assets, history, and potential. Public art is a central component of placemaking.

Here in the UD, we are starting to see more and more private developers looking to incorporate aspects of public art into their projects. The recently completed, 139-unit, mixed-income housing project, The Warren, includes a public mural by Pullman artist, [Jiemei Lin](#). The southeast corner of the building is now an eye-catching explosion of color and texture depicting scenes from a rabbit warren and the family living adjacent. The piece is a welcoming and whimsical improvement to an otherwise sterile concrete wall.

The UD is also in the process of wrapping up a series of placemaking recommendations and strategies to be presented to the UDDA Board in early November. The Placemaking Task Force met this summer and has lots of ideas, best practices, and four key strategy areas for the board to consider.

- Work to increase foot traffic throughout the District;
- Create destination(s) for Spokane area citizens, students, and visitors;
- Work to develop parks, cultivate open space, and celebrate the natural environment; and
- Celebrate and honor the people, place, and existing built environment within the District.

Juliet Sinisterra, CEO





Jiemei Lin's, "The Warren" art mural.

Art, Culture & Medicine

Christie Tirado, a regional artist and art teacher, hosted a printmaking workshop this past spring at Washington State University's Spokane campus. Tirado has been selected to complete an indoor mural for WSU's newly renovated Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine to be completed in the Spring of 2023.

At the workshop, Tirado, a Mexican American artist, shared her work inspired by her family, her culture, and her background. As a child, Tirado enjoyed taking trips to Mexico City where murals around the city inspired her to pursue art.

Tirado sees the new mural as a bridge between culture and medicine. She aims for the piece to be "inspired by the Spokane community," and plans to honor the responses she received at the workshop around community "health, healing, and wellness".





*Tirado's La Escuelita Community Mural, (2020) 4' x 24'. Outdoor Acrylic.
Commissioned by La Casa Hogar.*



Board Member Focus

Welcome to new UDDA Board Member, Dennis Wagner! Wagner, VP of Retail Experience at Numerica Credit Union, will serve as the Chair for the UD's new advisory Business Committee (BC).

The BC launches in January of 2023 and will consist of large and small business and property owners within the UD focusing on parking, security, and District beautification issues.

Wagner, originally from Indiana, moved to Spokane in 2006 after visiting his family and falling in love with the area and community. He has been with Numerica Credit Union since 2016. When not at work, he loves spending quality time with his wife, Danielle, his 8-year-old son, Hudson, and his 4-year-old daughter, Reese.

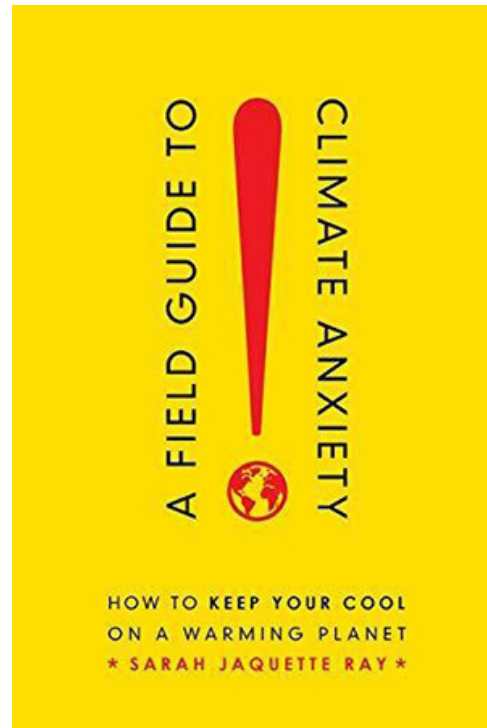
Noteworthy Community Events



Saranac Art Projects Present: Swell, Works by Lisa Nappa and Chris Tyllia

November 4 – 26

A collection of materials, objects, and images that explore observation, movement, and change.



The Emotional Life of the Climate Justice Movement

November 1

Gonzaga Center for Climate, Society and the Environment presents Dr. Sarah Jaquette Ray. What will it take to imagine, desire, and thrive in a climate-changed world? How can we live our best lives in the face of so much degradation and injustice?



Deadline: Access to Care Grant Competition

November 14

The Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County has announced an increase to \$475,000 for its 2023 annual grant competition for non-profit and other organizations.



2022 Workforce Summit

November 16



Spokane Assessment: Community Health

November 30

The Spokane Regional Health District hosts a community discussion. Come share your thoughts on overall health priorities for Spokane County.

The Journal of Business presents this impactful conversation around workforce gaps affecting the economy and how community educators and employers need to adapt.

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