

PRESS RELEASE

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Bellevue Arts Museum honored with 2011 Eastside Business Award

Bellevue, WA – Bellevue Arts Museum, the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft and design, has just been honored with the prestigious **2011 Eastside Business Award** in the Non-Profit/Community Impact category by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes outstanding Eastside organizations that uphold a strong commitment to quality, community and innovation.

"We're so pleased to receive this important award," says Stefano Catalani, Director of Curatorial Affairs/Artistic Director of Bellevue Arts Museum. "The Museum is a vital part of the socio-economic fabric of Bellevue and the greater region. We appreciate that the business community and chamber recognize the important role BAM plays in enriching our community and as a destination for national and international travelers."

Incorporated in 1975, Bellevue Arts Museum has grown alongside the city of Bellevue. With its unique focus on art, craft and design, BAM connects people of all ages with extraordinary works by Northwest artists while bringing national and international exhibitions to our community. In 2010, BAM served over 360,000 people through its multi-faceted exhibitions and programs as well as the annual [Bellevue Arts Museum artsfair](#). The fair, now in its 65th year and held July 29, 30 & 31, has grown to be one of the largest arts festivals in the Northwest and an important economic driver for Bellevue.

"Building partnerships with both businesses and non-profits is a core element of our mission," says Executive Director/CEO Mark Crawford. "We are proud to have teamed up with many organizations over the years to help build vibrant programs for the benefit of our entire community, and look forward to deepen our relationships over the next few years."

This week, the Museum celebrates the opening of two new exhibitions. A Northwest premiere, [Think Twice: New Latin American Jewelry](#) explores how contemporary artists across this intriguingly diverse continent express their individuality and rich cultural background through jewelry-making. Continuing its commitment of fostering Northwest artists, BAM also unveils the newest and largest installation of Seattle metalsmith [Cathy McClure](#), complete with music, whirling lights and a buzzing 10' ferris wheel. A multitude of exciting community programs are offered in conjunction with both exhibitions and the Museum just launched a new, greatly-reduced \$25 Family admissions ticket, making a visit to BAM more affordable than ever.

About Bellevue Arts Museum

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft, and design. The Museum connects people of all ages with the extraordinary works of Northwest artists while bringing national and international collections to its community. Dynamic educational programs provide unique opportunities to connect with art and artists; past or present, experimental or established. Each July, BAM hosts one of the largest and most treasured art festivals of the year, the Bellevue Arts Museum artsfair. BAM is located in the heart of downtown Bellevue, provides free parking and is wheelchair accessible. Please visit www.bellevuearts.org for details.

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