

# The Art of Aging

We are hosting an in-person unveiling of The Art of Aging Project and a facilitated conversation on aging and shifting the culture around ideas of aging.

Friday, December 10th, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Bellingham Senior Activity Center - 315 Halleck Street

The Art of Aging project is one step toward exploring some of the details of aging through series of portraits and recorded interviews reflecting diverse experiences of older adults in Whatcom County, as told through their own words. The project was developed by Marie Eaton, Community Champion for the Palliative Care Institute. Portraits were painted by Sarah Lane and audio engineering and “audio sculpting” was provided by Richard Scholtz. Our collaboration brought together wonderfully different ways of "paying attention" to our conversation partners, the visual and the auditory revealing different details.

The Art of Aging project was started because we recognized that although we know a lot about aging, most of what we know are broad brushstrokes. The details are missing. Important details. Reading statistical and demographic data, we cannot see the unique features that grace the face of each aging person. When we look across our community, as a whole, we cannot possibly see the laugh lines and creases of sorrow of each individual's experiences or hear their voice or rhythms of their thoughts.

We invite you! See the unveiling of the portraits, hear from the creators, listen to some of the short interviews paired with each portrait, and take part in a discussion about creating a cultural shift in ideas about aging.



## Program:

- Welcome and Introduction of Art of Aging visionaries - Molly Simon, BSAC Director
- Art of Aging goals and vision - Sarah Lane & Marie Eaton
- What we gained from the experience - Sarah Lane & Marie Eaton
- Recognition of interviewees
- Comments from interviewee
- Recognize Chuckanut Health Foundation Grant - Sarah Lane, Marie Eaton or Richard Scholtz
- Unveiling of the Artwork - Sarah Lane & Interviewee
- Group discussion on the aging experience- Lara Welker