

December 15, 2009

Dear Olympia Film Society Board, Staff, Volunteers and members,

I am writing as a candidate for the Olympia Film Society Board of Directors. I'm very excited about the invitation to apply for membership on the board and am confident that my commitment to OFS and my professional and educational experiences will make me an excellent fit.

I've been a fan of OFS since attending my first movie at the Capital Theater more than six years ago. The theatre and the unusual Norwegian art house flick I saw that night had a transportative effect, giving me a strong sense of nostalgia for the \$2 Tuesday-night movies my best friend and I used to enjoy at the historic Art Deco independent movie house in the community where we grew up. (Sadly, that theater is no longer, the victim of prohibitively expensive earthquake retrofitting.) When my husband and I moved to Olympia this past April, I promptly joined OFS as a member and we began to regularly attend films at the OFS, with particular excitement for documentaries and any foreign films that let me work on my rusty German and Spanish language skills. Over the last few months, I've had the pleasure of getting to know OFS, its staff, board, and volunteers much better while serving on its Development and Fundraising Committee, where I facilitated OFS's development of a comprehensive five-year Fund-Development Plan.

I bring to my candidacy a varied and extensive background in non-profit and progressive advocacy, including over six years of professional fundraising experience and service on three boards, a regional advisory committee, and (as mentioned above) the OFS's own Development and Fundraising Committee. I'm a graduate of the University of Washington with double degree in International Studies, Community Environment and Planning, and German Language and Literature and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Washington School of Law. After years of working for non-profit organizations (including Heart of America Northwest, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, the Alliance for Justice, Oceana, and the Center for International Environmental Law) in a variety of capacities (including Development Director, Judicial Selection Fellow, and legal intern) and for a time as a civil rights lawyer in DC, I am currently developing my own non-profit consulting business, providing fund-development planning, training, board development and other services to help organizations better achieve their missions.

I am eager to put my skills and experience to work on the board of the Olympia Film Society, where I hope in particular to continue advancing OFS's fund-development goals and to play a role in helping OFS secure the Capital Theater (fingers crossed) as a permanent home. I would be delighted to answer any questions regarding my candidacy and can be reached at [sasha@vishuddha.net](mailto:sasha@vishuddha.net) or (206) 250-1592.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sasha Cornellier