

Clark County Arts Commission

Conflict of Interest Policy

The Commissioners on the Board of the Clark County Arts Commission shall abide by RCW 42.23, which governs municipal officers and “governs all contracts by such officials, including contracts or employment, sales, leases, and purchases.” This shall also be related to grant funding.

RCW 42.23.070 describes specific prohibitions:“(1) a municipal officer using his or her position to obtain special privileges; (2) accepting compensation or a gift from a source other than the employing municipality for a matter related to the officer's services as a municipal officer; (3) engaging in a business or professional activity that the officer might reasonably expect would induce him or her to disclose confidential information gained by virtue of his or her official position; and (4) disclosing confidential information or using such information for personal gain.”

In addition, The Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, a rule of law that requires government decision-makers to conduct hearings and make decisions in a way that is both fair in appearance and in fact, shall become part of this policy for the purpose of “bolstering public confidence in the fairness of such decisions by the elimination of actual bias, prejudice, improper influence or favoritism, but also in the curbing of conditions which, by their very existence, tend to create suspicion, generate misinterpretation, and cast a pall of partiality, impropriety, conflict of interest or prejudgment over the proceedings to which they relate.” Excerpted from [Chrobuck v. Snohomish County](#), 78 Wn.2d 858, 868 (1971).

Based on the RCW's and Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, each Clark County Arts Commission Board Member has an affirmative duty to disclose whether the Board member has any Conflict of Interest. It will be the responsibility of each commissioner to identify potential conflicts and it will be the responsibility of the Commission to consider the statement of potential conflict and act in the best interest of the public. An example of such conflict would be affiliation or relation to a grant applicant or any entity or grant fund. If there is any affiliation or relationship with such applicant, then special procedures shall be taken to ensure independence, The Board Member will recuse him or herself from voting and such board members will be asked to leave the meeting during the voting process when the Commission has determined that there is conflict of interest.

If there still remains a quorum, and once a vote has been taken, the Board Member may once again join the current Commission and participate in the regular board proceedings.