

January 16, 2016

Selection Committee
West Valley Arts Council
13243 North Founders Park Blvd.
Surprise, AZ 85370

Dear Committee Members;

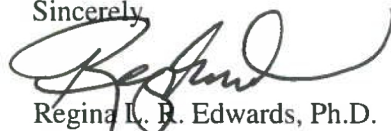
It is my honor to nominate Dan Weecks and Weecks Productions The Talk Around Town Show for the Council's Champion of the Arts Award. The YWCA has been working with Dan for nearly two years and in that time, it has become evident to me that Dan is indeed an Arts Champion.

Dan is very dedicated to the community and demonstrates this commitment in a number of ways. The Talk Around Town highlights, on a regular basis, arts and arts related programs in the West Valley. A wide diversity of programs have been featured and include not for profits, performanaces, individuals, and events. As a small business, Dan's work in the community is even more impressive. His support of arts programs certainly brings exposure to the organizations and enhances their reach by not only featuring them on his weekly show, but also the extended and continued publicity through Facebook and YouTube. This is done at no cost to the organization or individual, and is a huge asset.

In addition to hosting The Talk Around Town and supporting the arts through outreach, Dan and his co-hosts are artists in their own right. The Talk Around Town co-host Calion Maston is an actor, co-hostess Courtney Bailey is a fashion designer, and John Weecks is a visual artist whose background includes a stint as Art Director for a local NBC station. Dan Weecks is a published poet and accomplished filmmaker who is involved with several arts groups which include leading efforts to publicize and expand the Zeitgest Medien Fest (International Film Festival). Dan has travelled internationally to promote the Festival and build the brand.

As we look to the future and contemplate our community's growth and development, it is vital that we encourage young professionals to engage and be part of that future. This is critical in our arts community. Through his work and service, Dan Weecks epitomizes what we need for the arts to flourish. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,



Regina L. R. Edwards, Ph.D.
CEO