

SAM FARRAZAINO

Best in Neighborhood: Georgetown Award



**The Best in
Neighborhood Award
is presented to
Sam Farrazaino,
founder of Equinox
Studios in Georgetown.**

Equinox Development Unlimited LLC is a development company dedicated to creating space for artists and artisans. Sam has developed more than 250,000 square feet of artist space in Seattle and across the country, capitalizing on his experience as a design/build general contractor to give new life to historic buildings.

Sam's goal is to create thriving arts spaces that support and sustain people through creativity, collaboration, and community. Housed in a World War II-era factory building, Equinox Studios was founded in 2006, providing 38 studios and shops with over 50 tenants working on blacksmithing and metal sculpture, painting and ceramics, woodwork, leatherwork, glass, photography, and much more. A true community space, these artists and artisans collaborate on inspiring work that engages the public and allows them to experience art where it is created.

The operation expanded in 2014-15 to include three adjacent buildings, forming Equinox Studios – The Creative Industrial Complex. The site now totals nearly 100,000 square feet and is home to more than 125 tenants. Around 200 people come and go on any given day, taking advantage of new spaces such as two rehearsal/performance spaces and two painting schools.

This expansion was followed by the establishment of the Equinox Studios cooperative. The corporation that owns the Complex is now 100% tenant-owned, granting each and every tenant the ability to gain equity while thriving in an affordable and sustainable community – this is a unique and valuable opportunity in a city where artists and artisans are being displaced by the loss of affordable work space.

Aurora Bennett of Bennett Properties, which owns many historic properties in Georgetown, says it best: “Sam has been a part of Seattle’s character growth as well as its preservation through his constant efforts to build and promote arts, creativity, and education. He is long overdue for recognition. We all know and love him in Georgetown – we want everyone else in Seattle to know who he is as well.”

Sam Farrazaino is building upon Georgetown’s legacy through his work with Equinox Studios, and for that we are honored to present him with our first-ever Best in Neighborhood Award.