



RANDY ENGSTROM



Randy Engstrom has been a passionate advocate and organizer of cultural and community development for over 25 years.

He joined Seattle Center as Acting Director on March 30, 2026. The Center is a 64-acre campus that serves as the civic and cultural heart of the city along with the new Waterfront Park that the department also maintains. Previously, he was the owner and principal of Third Way Creative, a collaborative consulting studio specializing in cultural policy, racial equity, and creative economy. Its clients included Creative West, Grantmakers in the Arts, Friends of Waterfront Park, and the Cities of Seattle, Indianapolis, and Ottawa, Canada.

He is also an Adjunct Faculty Member at the Seattle University Arts Leadership Program, teaching cultural policy and advocacy, and a regular lecturer at the Evans School of Governance and Public Policy at the University of Washington.

From 2012-2021, he served as Director of the Office of Arts and Culture for the City of Seattle, where he expanded their investments in granting programs and Public Art, while establishing new programs and policies in arts education, cultural space affordability, and racial equity. He also led several multi-department subcabinets, including Affordability and Livability, Youth Opportunity, Future of Work, and COVID Recovery. He served as Chair of the Seattle Arts Commission in 2011 and was Chair of the Facilities and Economic Development Committee from 2006 to 2010.

Before joining the City he owned Reflex Strategies, a cultural and community-based consulting practice. From 2005-2010, Engstrom was the Founding Director of the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, a multimedia and multidisciplinary community space. In 2009, Randy received the Emerging Leader Award from Americans for the Arts and was one of Puget Sound Business Journal's 40 Under 40.



He is a graduate of The Evergreen State College and holds a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Washington's Evans School of Governance and Public Policy.

Randy will be speaking in Seattle during the MOMENTUM convening on July 26, 2026.

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