WHERE ART, MEDICINE, AND COMMUNITY MEET

DR. JULIE HSIEH'S VISION FOR CONNECTION



For Dr. Julie Hsieh, service has never been limited to a single profession. Physician, entrepreneur, arts advocate, community volunteer, and Mercer Island City Councilmember, she has spent her career finding new ways to strengthen communities and improve lives.

Today, that mission comes to life through Yuan Ru Art Center in Bellevue — a vibrant cultural destination where art, education, and community come together under one roof. Founded in 2022, the center provides a platform for both local and international artists while creating opportunities for cultural exchange and meaningful dialogue.

Dr. Hsieh's path to the art world was anything but traditional. After earning degrees from Stanford University and Baylor College of Medicine and completing her residency in Family Medicine, she spent years caring for patients of all ages as a family physician in Bellevue and operated her own medical clinic for seven years.

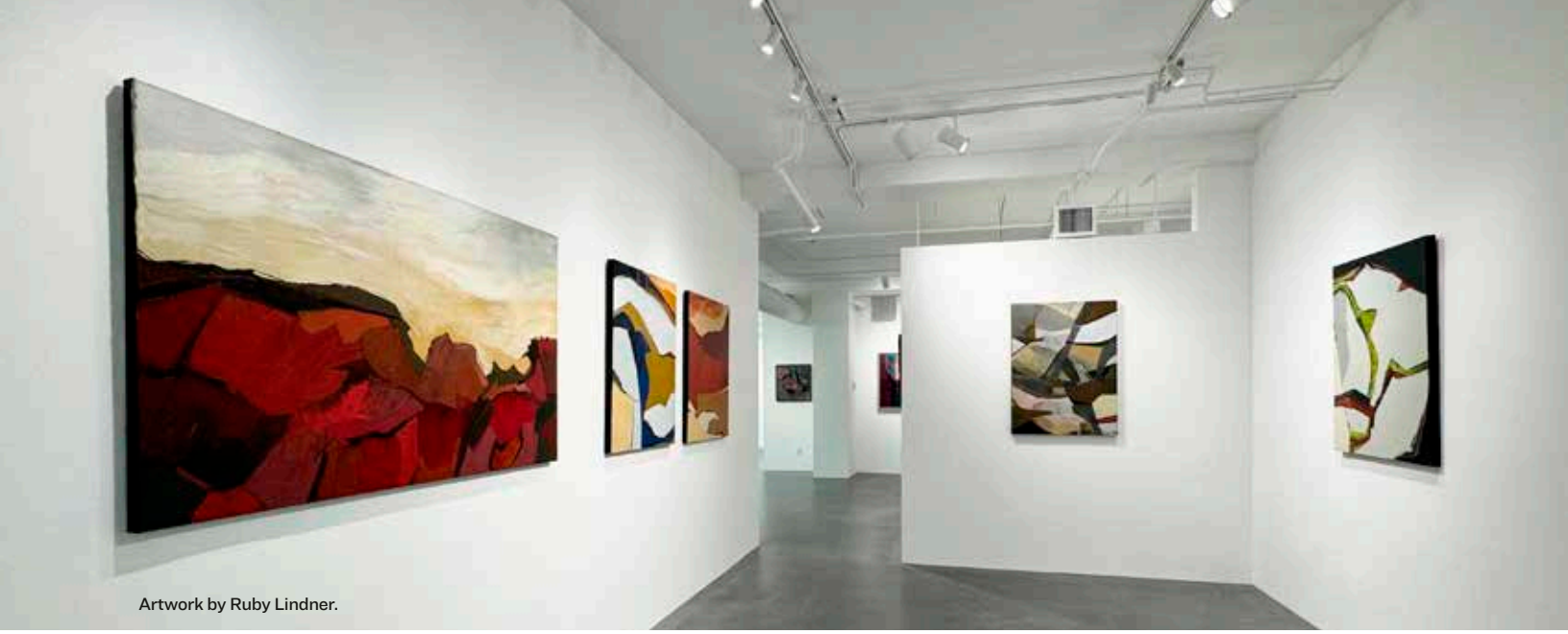
Yet throughout her medical career, the arts remained a constant passion. Music played a central role in her childhood, with years of piano and voice lessons shaping her confidence, creativity, and ability to connect with others. Those early experiences would later influence every chapter of her life and career.

A major turning point came in 2014 when Dr. Hsieh moved to Taiwan with her husband and two young children. During her years abroad, she immersed herself in the artistic community, explored museums and art fairs around the world, and developed her own voice as a visual artist. The experience transformed not only her artistic perspective, but also her understanding of the role art can play in society.

"Art is much more than an object to be viewed," she explains. "It is a powerful language that can inspire reflection, foster empathy, and bridge cultural divides."



Artwork by Kimberly Leo; Photographer: Laura Ohata



Artwork by Ruby Lindner.

When the family returned to the Pacific Northwest in 2021, Dr. Hsieh brought with her a new vision — creating a place where creativity, culture, education, and community could intersect. One year later, Yuan Ru Art Center opened its doors.

Unlike many galleries that focus primarily on sales, Yuan Ru Art Center was designed as a cultural bridge connecting artists, collectors, students, and the broader community. Through exhibitions, artist talks, workshops, lectures, and community events, the center strives to make contemporary art accessible and engaging for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Community collaboration sits at the heart of the center's mission. Yuan Ru Art Center has partnered with schools, nonprofits, local businesses, and cultural organizations to create educational opportunities and celebrate creativity. Student artwork, musical performances, and community events regularly fill the gallery space, creating an environment where everyone feels welcome to participate in the arts.

That same commitment to service ultimately led Dr. Hsieh into public office. After years of volunteering with local schools, nonprofit organizations, and community initiatives, she was elected to the Mercer Island City Council in November 2025.

While medicine, art, and government may seem like very different worlds, Dr. Hsieh sees a common thread running through all three.

"As a physician, I cared for individuals and families. Through Yuan Ru Art Center, I work to enrich lives through creativity and cultural exchange. As a City Councilmember, I have the opportunity to help shape policies that strengthen our community," she says.

Looking ahead, Dr. Hsieh hopes to expand Yuan Ru Art Center's educational programming, deepen partnerships with schools and nonprofits, and continue growing its role as a destination for artistic innovation and cultural exchange. Her vision is for the center to become a lasting institution that inspires creativity and brings people together for generations to come.

Her advice to others reflects the journey she has taken herself: don't be afraid of reinvention.

"Life and career paths are rarely linear," she says. "The most meaningful opportunities often come from embracing change, staying open to new directions, and continuing to learn over time."

For Dr. Julie Hsieh, every chapter — medicine, music, art, entrepreneurship, and public service — has been connected by a single purpose: bringing people together and creating opportunities for others to thrive.

YUAN RU ART CENTER

ART AS A
JOURNEY TO HAPPINESS



Artwork by
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