

Milenko Matanovič

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Artist, Innovator, Mentor and Educator in Creative Collaboration and Community Building

- Started the non-profit Pomegranate Center, Issaquah, WA
- Successful art career starting in the 1960s - work exhibited internationally, including the Biennale of Venice
- Popular speaker and consultant on community, collaboration, and “creative placemaking”
- Author of four books
- Recipient of numerous awards, including the HOME magazine/Bank of America ‘Local Heroes’ award (full list of distinctions below)

As the founder of Pomegranate Center:

- Worked with 100+ neighborhoods around the country and abroad
- Collaborated with numerous communities to build more than 60 gathering places
- Organized community meetings and volunteer efforts
- Mentored development of community-owned plans for parks, town centers, streets, libraries and trails
- Trained hundreds of leaders in the *Pomegranate Center Method* of community building, which teaches that, *when it comes to society, “together we always know more” and that empowering communities is the most efficient, foundational way to improve society.*

Background

2020-2022	Consultant and Trainer, Pomegranate Associates, LLC,
2017-2020	Director, Institute for Everyday Democracy, department of Pomegranate Center
1986-2017	Founder/Executive Director, Pomegranate Center, a non-profit organization facilitating collaborative community engagement and the design/build of community gathering places.
1973-1986	Freelance artist, musician, educator
1972-1973	Music and educational director, Findhorn Foundation, Scotland
1967-1971	Member of group OHO, a multi-disciplinary art cooperative
1966-1970	University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, majoring in Art History

Project lead: Selected Community Gathering Places (60 completed projects)

- *Paradise Creek Park, National City, CA, 2016* – mentored a team of artists in creating a park where tides from the Pacific Ocean meet the freshwater from Paradise Creek.
- *The Gathering Place, Milton-Freewater, OR, 2015* – transformed a neglected space into a vibrant park filled with local character; in partnership with Blue Mountain Action Council, Walla Walla Housing Authority, Sherwood Trust; built with 265 volunteers.
- *Be-Is, Neah Bay, WA, 2015* – led a team of architects, native artists and builders in creating an art-filled shelter for the Makah Tribe.
- *Valle Lindo Gathering Place, Walla Walla, WA, 2014* – created a gathering place in a new neighborhood for 120 farming workers families, in partnership with Blue Mountain Action

Council, Walla Walla Housing Authority, Sherwood Trust and ORCA fund, built with 80 volunteers.

- *Prescott Plaza, Prescott, WA, 2014* – a community space for dances and weddings created in place of a burned-down building on the main street of a farming community, in partnership with Blue Mountain Action Council, Sherwood Trust and ORCA fund, built with 80 volunteers.
- *Manzanita Gathering Place, San Diego, CA, 2013* – Milenko mentored local artists in transforming a neglected space into a cherished gathering place built in partnership with several San Diego nonprofits, San Diego Foundation, and Rokenbok Foundation, built with 150 volunteers
- *Butterfly Park, National City, CA, 2013* – gathering place built in partnership with several San Diego nonprofits, San Diego Foundation, and Tully’s Coffee of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, built with 250 volunteers.
- *Alberta Gathering Place, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2012* – gathering place created with the debris of the 2011 tornado, made possible with a grant from Tully’s Coffee of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, built with 150 volunteers giving 3500 hours of time and raising \$50,000 in in-kind donations.
- *2011 Tully’s Gathering Places Projects, Seattle, Mercer Island, Sumner, Kirkland, WA, 2011* – four community spaces made possible with a grant from Tully’s Coffee of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, built in five months with 781 volunteers giving 8000 hours of time.
- *Washington Park Gathering Place, Walla Walla, WA, 2010*— designed and built a stage and dance floor, artistic gateways, handcrafted benches and tables from salvaged black walnut, art banners. 1500 community volunteer hours. Recipient of the 2011 Governor’s Smart Communities Award.
- *Commons Park Amphitheater, High Point, Seattle, 2007-08* - designed and built outdoor community gathering place for 100 people; stage features wood carvings made with community participation.
- *King George Park Gathering Place, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, 2006*—design/build studio with local volunteers and artists resulting in an amphitheater for 150 people.
- *Esperanza, Mattawa, WA, 2000-01*—designed and built outdoor amenities, including seating, shade/shelter, play area, signage, fences and gateways for migrant farm-workers housing.
- *Ashland Park, Issaquah, WA, 1995*—designed and fabricated elements for a central park surrounded by low-density homes at the master-planned community Issaquah Highlands, utilizing rocks and reclaimed materials from the cleared sites to form seating, walls and other elements.
- *Pickering Place Public Park, Issaquah, WA, 1994*—collaboration with James Hubbell in designing a 400-foot-long urban park consisting of an amphitheater, a bridge spanning a constructed wetland, and a plaza.

Selected Participatory Planning and Public Engagement Projects

- *Georgetown Steam Plant CDA, Seattle, WA, 2021-22 (current)* –Mentoring and training nonprofit and community leaders in co-creating a community cultural center
- *City of Spokane’s Traffic Calming Program, Spokane, WA, 2021-22 (current)* –Training city staff and community representatives in the Pomegranate Method of community engagement,
- *Spokane in Motion - Bicycle Trails Plan, City of Spokane and I-Sustain Spokane, WA, 2019*
- *Tse-whit-zen village, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe* Port Angeles, WA, 2015-17
- *Community Conversations, Walla Walla, Dayton Milton-Freewater, WA, 2016*
- *East Hill Revitalization Plan, Kent, WA, 2012* – Developed community-owned goals for the future
- *Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Grand Forks, BC, Canada, 2007-08*
- *South Park Gathering Place, Seattle, WA, 2007-08* – Developed a design for a community space

- Issaquah Highlands Town Center, 2007-08 Issaquah, WA. Created an arts plan for a 14-acre town center
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails Plan, 2003-04 Burien, WA.
- Town Square Plan, 2002 Burien, WA
- Creative City, 2002 Ottawa, Canada – Leader of a one day symposium on the role of the arts and creativity in shaping the city
- U.S. Department of Energy, FEMA, American Institute of Architects, Pattonsburg MO, 1994 – Led goal-setting sessions to identify environmental and cultural priorities for a new town design
- Chattanooga Venture Chattanooga, TN, 1991-93 – Coordinated city-wide forums resulting in greater commitment to a sustainable future

Teaching

- Led dozens of workshops using Pomegranate Model for community engagement in Washington State, California, Oregon and New Zealand
- Over 1000 community leaders, NGO leaders, government workers, and design professionals participated in training between 2013 and 2020.

Selected Keynotes on the various aspects of collaborative/creative democracy

- *Town Hall, Seattle, WA, 2020*
- *The Aspen Festival of Ideas, Aspen, CO, 2018*
- *Philanthropy NW Annual Conference, Vancouver, WA, 2017*
- *7th Annual Smith Symposium, San Diego, 2017*
- *Wellington, New Zealand, sponsored by the USA consulate, 2016*
- *Oregon Nonprofit Leaders Conference, Medford, OR 2016*
- *The Oregon Community Foundation Studio to School Rendezvous, Sisters, OR, 2015*
- *Auckland Conversation hosted by Auckland Council, Auckland, New Zealand, 2015*
- *Christchurch Conversation hosted by Christchurch Council, Christchurch, New Zealand, 2015*
- *Planning Association of Washington, Lynwood, WA, 2014*
- *TEDx Tacoma, WA, 2014*
- *The Engaged Campus: Higher Education for the Public Good, Portland, OR, 2013*
- *New School of Architecture & Design, San Diego, CA, 2013*
- *Philanthropy Northwest Annual Conference, Walla Walla, WA, 2012*
- *Building Sustainable Communities, Kelowna, BC, 2012*
- *2012 Alaska Arts & Culture Conference, Anchorage, AK 2012*
- *Pop!Tech 2011, The World Rebalancing conference, Camden, ME, 2011*
- *National Association for State Community Service Programs' annual conference, Seattle, 2011*
- *Community Built Association conferences, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014*
- *Praxis Series, Department of Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2005*
- *Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letter, Madison, WI, 2004*

Curriculum development

- Pomegranate Model—Pomegranate Center-designed training for community leaders, municipal staff members and designers focusing on collaboration, community engagement, and project leadership; developed with a grant from Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, 2012-13
- Community Treasures—students interview community members to identify, research, and create art celebrating geographic, natural and cultural aspects of their community—elements that indicators of local values, 1992-96
- Project Trash-Hold—high school students carry with them the trash they are responsible for generating and learn about what they can do to diminish their contribution to the waste stream, 1990-92

- *Hands on Civics*—high school students work in teams to design models of their ideal communities, formulate the reasons for their decisions, and present their work to community leaders, 1992-93

Selected Writing

- *The Case for Everyday Democracy*, Pomegranate Center Press, 2019
- *Multiple Victories*, Pomegranate Center Press, 2007
- *Meandering Rivers and Square Tomatoes*, Morningtown Press, Issaquah, Washington, 1988.
- *Lightworks--Explorations in Art, Culture, and Creativity*, Lorian Press, Issaquah, Washington, 1985.
- *Numerous articles*

Selected Public Art

- *Two Views, Pro-Parks public art installation*, West Seattle, WA, 2008 —designed a 40-foot land dock and a viewing circle intended to increase visitors' appreciation of two very different aspects (the natural and the built) of Westcrest Park.
- *Glacial wave*, Issaquah, WA, -public art celebrating the melting of the ice from 10,000 years ago, 2006
- *Fibonacci Twist*, Issaquah, WA, 2006 —designed a wind-generated light rope spiraling around a 45' high cellular phone antenna to artistically enhance an eyesore
- *Overlake Transit-Oriented Development*, Redmond, WA, 2001-2003 —designed identity elements for a 300-unit affordable housing complex that integrates housing with park-and-ride facilities,
- *Clouds, Rain, Sun*, Issaquah, WA, 2002—designed art for a 165' X 25' concrete water reservoir
- *Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail gateways*, West Seattle, WA, 2001 —collaborated with artist Paul Sorey in designing a prototype of a gateway inviting people to explore the trail

International Work - Collaborations with artist James Hubbell in leading architecture students from Russia, Mexico, China and US in creating artistic gathering spaces promoting cross-cultural collaboration and understanding around the Pacific Rim:

- Tecate, Mexico, 1990
- Vladivostok, Russia, 1994
- San Diego, US, 2000
- Yantai, China, 2002
- Tijuana, Mexico, 2004

Selected Art Exhibits

- *Waves-50 years of Milenko Matanovič Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2018
- *La Biennale of Venice*, Italy, 2017
- *Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America 1960-1980*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA, 2015
- *Ends of the Earth, Land art to 1974*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, 2012
- *Spirits of internationalism. 6 European Collections, 1956-1986*, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands, 2012
- *29 Biennial of Graphic Arts*, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2011
- *Museo de las narrativas paralelas*, Museu d'Art Contemporanide Barcelona, Spain, 2011
- *OHO after OHO*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, Croatia, 2010
- *Living Art On the Edge of Europe*, Kroller-Muller Museum, Otterlo. Holland, 2006
- *Kurze Karrieren*, Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, 2004

- *Gallery of Modern Art*, retrospective exhibit of group OHO, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1994
- *XVI. Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil, 1981*
- *7th Biennale of Young Artists*, Paris, France, 1971
- *Aktionsraum*, Munich, Germany, 1970
- *Galleria Techne*, Firenze, Italy, 1970
- *Museum of Modern Art, Information Show*, New York City, New York, USA, 1970
- *Gallery of Modern Art*, Zagreb, Croatia, 1969
- *Gallery of Modern Art*, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1968

Works are in several permanent museum collections

Awards and Distinctions

- Jolley Award for lifetime achievement in the field of community building, Community Build Association, 2020
- Affiliate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, 2013-18
- 2012 Leadership Seattle Eastside Vision Award
- The State of Washington Governor's Smart Communities Award to Pomegranate Center, 2009 and 2011
- Evergreen Award to Pomegranate Center– Executive Alliance for groundbreaking work in partnerships, Washington State, 2009
- Leadership Legacy Award – Center for Ethical Leadership, Seattle, 2009
- Shelter Award—HOME magazine/Bank of America 'Local Heroes' award, New York, 2005
- Evergreen State Society Leadership Award—Washington state, 1997
- Honorary professor—Vladivostok Polytechnic University, 1994
- Parents' Choice Award—Produced, composed and performed a musical album for children, 1988
- "Top 50 future leaders in Wisconsin", 1982

Selected publications about Milenko

- Catalogue: Waves – 50 years of Milenko Matanovic art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2018
- The Town Square Reinvented, Sonia Krishnan, *The Seattle Times*, June 17, 2012
- The OHO files: interview with Milenko Matanovic, *Art Margins Online*, 2011
- Between Grace and Fear—The Role of the Arts in a Time of Change, William Cleveland and Patricia Shifferd, Chapter 29: interview with Milenko Matanovic, Common Ground Publishing, 2010
- The Clandestine Histories of the Group OHO, Miško Šuvakocič, 2009
- Miracle Milenko, Grist Magazine interview, 8/2005
- Pomegranate Center uses art to better everyday living, by Jennifer Langston, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, 12/29/2004
- Details make the difference, by Ross Atkin, *The Christian Science Monitor*, 11/28/2001
- Pomegranate plants seeds for community living, by Glenn Pascall, *Puget Sound Business Journal*, 5/19-25/2000
- The case for sustainable development, by William Becker, *APA Magazine*, 1994
- Catalogue: OHO Retrospective, Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana, 1994
- New Perceptions of Reality in Art and Science, Dialogue between Fritjof Capra and Milenko Matanovic, *The Elmwood Newsletter*, Winter 1988