

MATT ENGLE

Congratulations to Matthew Engle, recipient of this month's Arts Hero Award

Matthew Engle is a business attorney at Gallagher & Kennedy, where he focuses on corporate and securities law and commercial transactions. For nearly 40 years, the full-service law firm of Gallagher & Kennedy has built an exemplary reputation, both for the results it delivers to clients and its role as an engaged corporate citizen.

Tell us where your love for the arts began.

I grew up in Los Angeles, where my parents both worked in the film industry. Some of my earliest memories are sitting in an editing room watching a film editor work, and my summer jobs included working on various film crews. So I was exposed to the visual arts at an early age. My parents also took me to many museums and performances, and my appreciation for the value of the arts increased over the years.

You've had an interesting career path. You are currently a business lawyer, but your prior career was as a video game producer and designer. How does technology impact the arts?

The lines between technology and art are blurring. For example, the Phoenix Art Museum hosted an exhibition on the Art of Video Games in 2013, and the Phoenix Symphony performed a concert of video game music in 2015.

You are now settled in Phoenix. Tell us about your involvement in the Phoenix arts community.

While I no longer work in the media industry, I never lost my creative passion. Since I moved to Phoenix, I've made a point to try to help grow the city's cultural landscape. For example, I am one of the founding board members of the Phoenix Symphony Young Professionals, which was launched in 2011 and has about 120 members. More recently, I've been appointed by Mayor Stanton to the Phoenix Arts and Culture Commission. I'm passionate about expanding the reach of the arts, and hoping to be a bridge between the city's established arts institutions and the next generation of Valley leaders.

Tell us why you are committed to the arts.

I come at it from two perspectives. In my current position as a business attorney at Gallagher & Kennedy, I see how a vibrant cultural community is vital to a city's business climate and economic growth. One of the factors entrepreneurs look at when deciding where to do business is a city's "creative capital." And in my prior career in the media industry, I developed an appreciation for the arts on a creative and aesthetic level.

How can people reach you to learn more about the groups you are involved with?

My email address is mengle100@gmail.com.

Congratulations, Matthew Engle! Each month an Arts Hero, someone who tirelessly works for the good of the arts in our community, will be featured.

To nominate, go to www.onmediaaz.com

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