



# 2022 Olympia Preservation Award Nomination

*Olympia's Preservation Award supports the Heritage Commission's goal of recognizing excellence in the rehabilitation of historic objects, buildings, structures, sites and districts, as well as new construction in historic areas (OMC 18.12.055).*

## PERSON MAKING NOMINATION:

Name	Contact Details	Date of Nomination
Audrey Henley	(360)n 888-3255	March 25 ,2022

## NOMINATION TYPE:

- Person  Project  Other:  
 Organization  Building

## CATEGORY OF NOMINATION:

- Preservation  Education  Other:  
 New Construction  Scholarship

## NOMINEE:

Name	Address	Phone/Email
KGY Media Group	1700 Marine Dr. NE Olympia, WA 98501	nick.kerry@kgyradio.com

## SIGNIFICANCE OF NOMINATION:

*Brief summary of the significance of the person, organization, project or building. This text will be used by the City of Olympia in preparing and presenting the award at the City Council meeting. Attach additional pages as needed.*

KGY Media Group is a local, family-owned Broadcast Radio and Digital Advertising Company serving the South Puget Sound region of the Seattle/Tacoma market. With studio/offices located in Olympia, KGY Media Group operates three local radio brands: 96.9 KAYO-Country (Regional/7-County Coverage Area), Olympia's 95.3 KGY (Local/Thurston County Coverage Area), and KAYO Legends on 96.9 HD3.

\*In 1922, Benedictine Monk, Father Sebastian Ruth, received the radio call letters "KGY" rights. Original broadcasts were from his log cabin shack just north of Old Main atop the college hill at what was St. Martin's College. Banners in the studio proclaimed "KGY, Where the Cedars Meet the Sea." His time at the log cabin was historical for the station as it allowed more room for performers and talents. His tenure broadcasting from St. Martins brought in more than 4,000 visits.

In 1939, Tom Olsen purchased KGY and operated the station, working alongside family members Theresa Olson, Jennifer Kerry, and Barbara Kerry, who reported the news, weather, and traffic. Barbara was the receptionist and the official spokesperson of KGY until the mid-2000s.



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Historical events include being one of the oldest radio stations in the United States. A visit by President Harry Truman visiting in 1948. The Olsen family commissioned the design of two historic landmarks: The Rockway-Leland in the 1940s, now home to radio station KXXO and KGY's, and in 1960 the unmistakable waterfront station on Budd Inlet. Both were designed by another famous local family, Joseph and Robert Wholeb. KGY on-air personality Dick Pust had the longest-running morning show in Washington. In 2018 KGY acquired management of KAYO. On April 5th, 2022, KGY Radio celebrated 100 years of broadcasting. KGY will celebrate this impressive feat with historical features, audio, and fun anecdotes throughout the year!

KGY holds a meaningful place in Olympia's entertainment and business history. Leading the group of stations today is Nick Kerry, a fourth-generation member and the great-grandson of Tom Olsen and the grandson of Barbara Olsen Kerry. He has been carrying on his family's tradition for 10 years now and spent his youth interning at KGY. Undoubtedly his charisma and passion were inspired by his grandmother!

Radio matters. We know the vital role of broadcasting essential information and some of our favorite and sometimes not-so-favorite tunes. The radio is our co-pilot, providing a soundtrack for road trips, marking memories through music, and communicating and connecting listeners to their community. Let's recognize Olympia's KGY Media Group for its longevity and commitment to community service, architectural preservation, and support of the arts!

*\*Excerpt is taken from kgyfm.com*

Video: *The Olympian "KGY celebrates 100 years"* <https://www.theolympian.com/article260360855.html>

- I have attached information to support my nomination, including documents, images, & other recognitions.*
- For a project nomination, I have included "before" and "after" photos.*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROVIDE AS APPLICABLE**

**PROPERTY OWNER FOR BUILDING/PROJECT BEING NOMINATED** (if different from above):

Name	Address	Phone/Email

**ARCHITECT / CONSULTANT FOR PROJECT BEING NOMINATED** (if different from above):

Name	Address	Phone/Email

**BUILDING DETAILS:**

Address	Historical Name
Year Built	Year Rehabilitated
Original/Early Owner	Original Architect/Builder
Original Use	Current Use
Heritage Designation Status	Other Information

*Attach additional pages as needed*

Please email completed form and attachments to Marygrace Goddu at: [mgoddu@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:mgoddu@ci.olympia.wa.us)