

Awarded by the Louisville Historical Commission

Pioneer Award

**JANET RUSSELL
2023**



Janet Russell and her business, Creative Framing Art Gallery, have been at the heart of the Louisville arts scene for over 25 years. Janet came to the United States from the Philippines in 1976. While working in the high tech industry, Janet started Creative Framing on Main Street.

Janet was the force behind the establishment of the Louisville Arts District and the First Friday Art Walks that were organized by LAD and that provided continued engagement and energy in the Louisville art community. The First Friday Art Walk is a family-friendly event that includes art venues, the Louisville Historical Museum, the Louisville Public Library, and shops and restaurants. The Art Walk, with Creative Framing as a crucial contributor and hub, draws hundreds of people of all ages to downtown Louisville, bringing attention both to the arts in Louisville and the downtown business community. Louisville's First Friday Art Walks are an important part of what makes Louisville such a great hometown for its residents and a valuable part of the larger Boulder County arts community. Besides organizing the Art Walks, the Louisville Arts District, has led fund raising programs to bring art into the community, including the updating of the "Via Artista" alleyways between Main Street and Front Street and the placement of murals by internationally known artists. Janet Russell has had her hand in all of these creative arts activities.

Janet's willingness to help others and contribute to the community through her dedicated support of the arts has served to make Louisville a better and more vibrant place.