



**Malynda & Rich Madzel
2024 Outstanding Community
Supporters of the Arts
Howie Honorees
Example Application**

Nomination Narrative

Please include a brief, but informative, narrative of no more than 1000 words describing the nominee and their impact on the arts in Howard County. It is important to include detailed facts, any distinguishing awards or achievements, and ongoing specific contributions to their field or community.

Malynda and Rich Madzel have been actively engaged in supporting the arts in Howard County over the last nearly 40 years since moving to Columbia. My first significant encounter with the Madzels in connection with the arts was about 20 years ago when my wife Elizabeth and I were the successful bidders in an auction for the benefit of the Columbia Festival of the Arts for an item they (together with Barbara Lawson) contributed - a dinner featuring BBQ ribs provided, prepared and served personally by them in our home for us and several guests. I have come to learn over the ensuing years that this is typical of how the Madzels support the arts - not simply by contributing their financial support but far more meaningfully by also contributing their personal time, expertise and creative and organizational talents.

The Madzel bios detail their several volunteer activities in support of the local arts, including:

- Malynda served on the Board of the Columbia Festival of the Arts
- Malynda served on the HoCo Arts Council Marketing Committee
- Malynda served on the Marketing Committee of the Red Branch Theatre
- Rich was original MC and Stage Manager for Fabulous Fifty Plus Players
- Rich produced the works of local playwrights in black-box theaters
- Rich produced the website for the art exhibit celebrating Columbia's 50th

Two unique programs supporting the performing arts which the Madzels created and to which they typically have devoted 10 to 15 and sometimes more hours a week for the last several years are Try It Out Theatre and Try It Out Comedy. TIO Theatre presented about 50 plays written by about 20 local and mostly new playwrights, performed or read by local (mostly novice) actors, before local audiences, over a decade. The Madzels supported TIO Theatre not only with their time but from their pockets, covering all venue and other costs, only partially offset by voluntary contributions from the audience. Playwrights and performers were uncompensated.

Their more recent TIO Comedy is providing an opportunity for local stand-up comedians (about 100 to date) to perform before a live audience. Each monthly event features a somewhat experienced headliner, but the others are relatively inexperienced or even first-timers. Once again, the Madzels have taken the financial risk of covering the venue and other costs, including modest fees paid to all comics (not much more than gas money according to Rich), but the program has been so well received that ticket revenues have begun to pass the break-even point. Articles about the program that appeared in AARP Magazine and in Howard County Beacon are attached under Additional Work Samples.

The Madzels support of the arts in Howard County has not been limited to the performing arts. Their home is richly and primarily decorated with the creative works of several local artists.

The Madzels are a true team in their support of the arts. Whenever one is taking the more visible lead in some activity, the other is playing one or more important supporting roles. While they have received recognition and been honored for some of their other community work, leadership and achievements, the Howie award would be the first specifically for their support of the arts.

Attached are letters from Mary Ann Scully, Kevin J. Kelehan, Stacie Hunt, Barb Van Winkle and Joan Lovelace in support of this nomination.

I respectfully submit that Malynda and Rich Madzel have earned and deserve the recognition represented by the 2023 Howie Award for Outstanding Business or Community Supporter of the Arts.

Ken Lundeen

Nominee Bio, Resume, or CV

Rich

Bio: Born in The Bronx, NY, March 30, 1938

Raised in Brooklyn, attending NYC school system until graduating High School and joining US Navy at age 17. Served as a sonarman on a Destroyer in the Far East and South Pacific until completing tour of duty at age 21.

Started college at age 25, completing AAS in Computer Science, and then BS in Management and Industrial Relations from NYU at age 34.

First real job was with UPS and was the first driver here in Maryland as part of the team that opened the middle Atlantic area in 1962. Many jobs in the computer industry Positions were in technical and sales for computer vendors. Did this until retirement at age 57 to join wife, Malynda, in business she had started in anticipation of this day.

Try It Out Theatre:

Try It Out Theatre began in 2002 when daughter Melissa was a high school performer, which included performances in Toby's Dinner Theatre. I thought if she could do it, so could I.

First position was with the *Fabulous Fifty Plus Players* as the original MC and Stage Manager playing in its premier show in the Howard County Center for the Arts. I quickly realized I did not belong on stage, but that I wanted to write plays as I had something to say (no surprise).

First 20-minute play written produced and starring me, was *Grampa's Dying*, presented three times in the black-box theatre of Howard Community College in 2003.

Second 20-minute play was *You Don't Get a Vote*, written directed and produced for three shows in the black-box theatre in the Howard County Center for the Arts in 2004.

From those experiences, I knew I wanted to support other beginners in their efforts at writing plays.

While writing, producing, and starring(?) in my own play, I also featured other local playwrights.

Try It Out Theatre was created with the objective of finding new playwrights and giving them an opportunity to have their work presented, or at least read, to an audience.

Kathy Marshall, who had helped and tutored me on my plays, joined with me in the search and presentation of about 50 plays from 20 writers, focused on 10-minute plays which is where a new writer typically begins. We played in the Red Branch Theatre, the Kittamaquundi Church and in our Condominium Club Room about 20 times over the next 10 years.

Several of the writers went on to bigger stages, Rich Espey becoming nationally known as writer, and Jamel Wade (Columbia) forming his own theatre company. We produced the first plays written by both of them. One of our players, LaTisha Jones (Columbia), earned a full scholarship to Hampton University based on her work with us as a teenager.

All that time, I continued to write short plays, plus one full-length effort that was competitively selected for staged reading by the *Baltimore Playwrights Festival*. Like all my work, it was cast with an interracial company of players, but never was presented because of my lack of experience at that level.

Try It Out Comedy:

At age 81, in 2019, I needed something to keep me active. While driving the New Jersey Turnpike came up with the idea of starting a stand-up comedy club here in Columbia. That I had never been to such a place was not seen as a problem.

We took the summer to visit comedy venues, meet producers and comedians and develop a business plan for a comedy show in “Downtown Columbia.”

Ninety days later, we presented our first show to an audience of about 100 in *The Root Studio* here in Columbia. Two more shows followed quickly. Almost all the comedians were relatively new, as it was my objective to do just that: *Give new people a chance to perform, as everybody deserves that opportunity.*

Needing a better venue, we moved into 18th & 21st here in Columbia, presenting 14 events there until Covid-19 arrived. By then, we had refined the shows to include experienced performers along with new people, as the audience let me know what they wanted. We sold out every show with over 60 people buying tickets.

When Covid quieted down, it was time for another move, and we went into *Home Slyce Pizza Restaurant* here in Columbia. It was a great space for us at the time as we needed to get the program restarted after almost two years of nothing.

By now, *Busboys and Poets* had opened in the Merriweather District of Downtown Columbia. To me, this was the Madison Square Garden of Columbia, and we contracted to perform there. We started in April, 2022, and have sold out every event as we did in prior venues.

We sell about 70 tickets to every event, and make just a few dollars per, as that has never been part of our reason for being. What we want is:

- The comedians get what they want - make people laugh.
- The audience get what they want - an evening of laughs.
- The venue gets to serve food and drink to new patrons.
- The producers get the satisfaction of enabling the above.

What we have learned since writing those lines, is that the real satisfaction comes from the response from the local community as they support us, and keep encouraging us to continue the program. It has become our objective to continue being an active part of the Downtown Columbia community as long as we are able.

The funny part is that I am not generally known as a fun-guy, but now people with a smile on their face, and I'm now called "The Comedy Guy." Our team is also amazing.

Sandy Bernstein, a very well-known comedian in the area, joined me as the producer of the show. Her task was to gather the performers, while my task was to sell tickets and manage the event. Event? Yes, as the doors open at 5:30 for people to come in, *Eat! Drink! Laugh!* before the show, and for 30 minutes after the show. By design, *Try It Out Comedy* presents 'Events', and the 'Show' is just part of it.

We have been written up by The *Howard County Beacon*, and more significantly, by AARP in their national magazine with a full-page article printed in 23,000,000 copies! This article gave us national recognition, including several contacts from classmates in PS 254, Brooklyn, from some 70 years ago!

<https://www.aarp.org/home-family/friends-family/info-2019/retirees-comedy-showcase.html>

Miscellaneous:

During all these efforts, Malynda stayed in the background while I worked the projects, but she was there to support my work, and keep me from creating havoc. Without her involvement, there would be no *Try It Out Theatre* or *Comedy*.

When Columbia turned 50, a local artist, MaryJo Messinger, painted portraits for 20 local people who had been instrumental in the forming the fabric of life in Columbia. I interviewed them, and with technical work by Mike Tennor, created a website:

[Celebrating Columbia Maryland — 50 Years](#)
www.TryItOutComedy.com is our website.

Currently:

Events go on every month as we have booked the venue for the year.

I have written the book about us, which is available on Amazon; search under Books for MADZEL and see the Second Edition. (There are four more of my self-published books there.) It tells our story, but it also serves as a how-to for other comedy producers wanting to learn how we are so successful: *It's a business, folks, and you have to work at it!*

At this time (March) we are working on the movie version of *Try It Out Comedy*. There will be a one-minute version for cell-phone people, an 8-minute version for computer users, and a 30-minute version, which we will try to get onto NETFLIX. The 'we' here are two professional film makers, Ilana

Bittner and Conor Kellicutt, who have stepped up to get the job done. While I had expected to use high-school interns for the task, these wonderful folks have let me chase my next dream.

Stay tuned, as I am sure there is more to come.

Malynda

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, March (Year is Confidential)

Grew up in Evansville, Indiana. Graduated Indiana University. Taught Social Studies and English in the public schools of Evansville upon graduation. Then resettled in New York and worked at various jobs in the computer and office equipment industry, finally settling is an HR professional in the pharmaceutical industry.

Rich and I married in September, 1972, celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a week-end party for 56 people. From 1977-1987 was a full-time Homemaker and stay-at-home mom.

After moving to Columbia in 1984, I realized that I had to “do something.” I started Custom Telemarketing Services in 1987 and quickly became involved in the business and arts communities as a way to “network” and meet prospective business associates. One of my first volunteer committee activities was with the Howard County Arts Council as a member of the Marketing Committee. This was the beginning of my volunteer efforts.

Later, as Chairman of the Board of the Columbia Foundation, President of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Inaugural Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Horizon Foundation, and a Trustee of the Columbia Festival of the Arts, I realized how important funding for, and support of, the Arts was to the continued growth and development of our community.

As business owners, Rich and I felt obligated to give the community our time, talent, and treasure. We established a named fund at the Columbia Foundation, were supporters of the Jim Rouse Theatre, the Columbia Festival of the Arts and the Howard County Arts Council.

I also testified on behalf of the festival for funding from the Columbia Council.

My greatest moment in all of these activities was appearing on stage with Aretha Franklin at her concert for the Festival. WOW!!!

Now I am an “unofficial” volunteer with Success in Style and am active with the Women’s Giving Circle of Howard County.

Rich and I must acknowledge those that have given us tremendous support in all our efforts.

- Sandy Bernstein, Comedian, Co-Producer TIOComedy
- Kathy Marshall, Actor, Stage Manager

- Colleen West, Executive Director, Howard County Center for the Arts
- Karen Islalovich, Owner, Root Studio
- Steve Wecker & Vince Culatta, Owners, 18th & 21st Restaurant
- Fatih Eryigit, Owner, Home Slyce Pizza
- Andy Shallal, CEO, Busboys & Poets
- Ilana Bittner, Filmmaker/CEO
- Conor Kellicutt, Filmmaker/Comedian

In addition, we appreciate all of the directors, playwrights, actors, comedians, props directors, musicians and others who were instrumental in assisting us to bring entertainment to our community.

Most of all, we must thank our “fans.” Many of whom have been with us since we started over 20 years ago. Their word of mouth advertising, ticket purchases and donations, and unfailing support for over 20 years has been outstanding.

Nominee Website of Online Work Samples

<http://www.tryitoutcomedy.com/>

Additional Work Samples

You may include up to ten (10) additional samples of the nominee's work. These samples may include images, documents, or videos. Additional website links may be shared in the next section.

Additional Online Work Samples

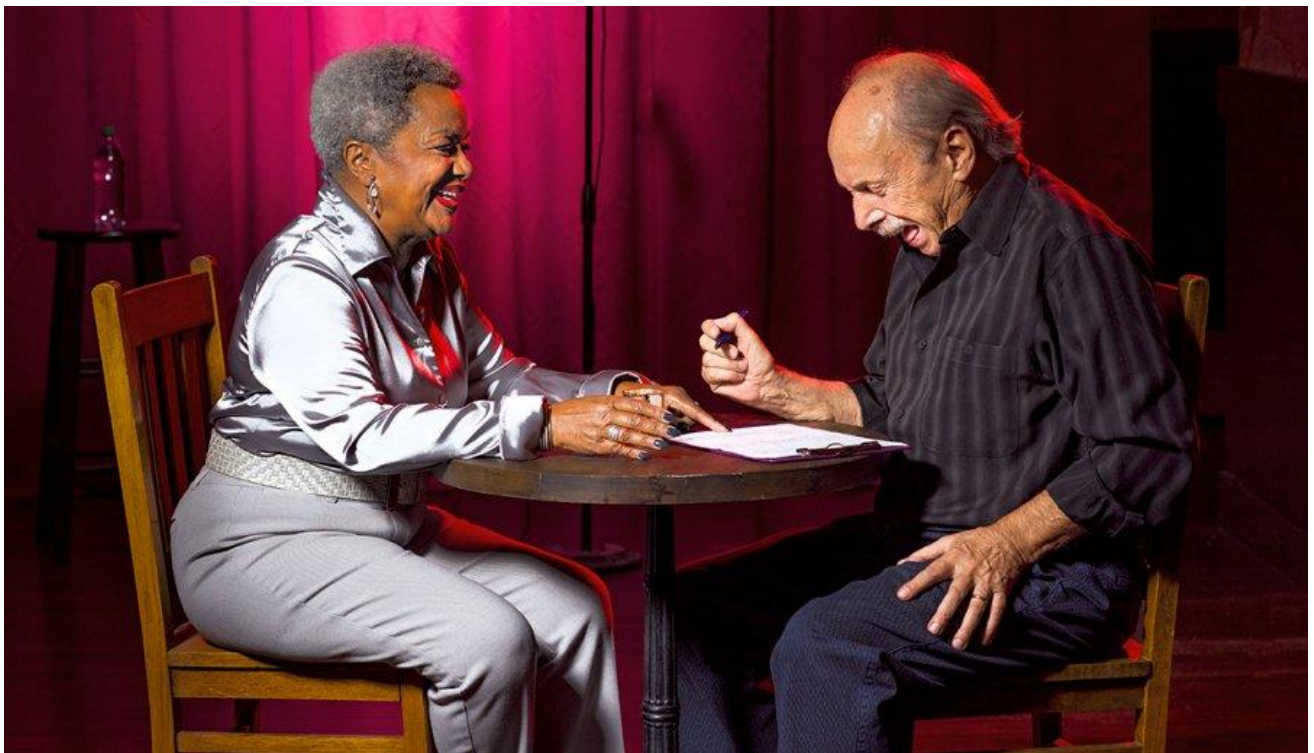
You may include a link to additional samples of the nominee's work online here. These samples may include additional websites or their work featured on other cultural websites (for example: their Baker Artist portfolio)

<https://celebratingcolumbia.com/>

Couple Starts a Comedy Showcase as a Way to Give Back

Retirees are building a community through laughter

by Rich and Malynda Madzel, [AARP](#), December 13, 2019



JOHN LOOMIS

Malynda and Rich Madzel.

Rich Madzel: I had retired from Motorola, and we'd sold a telemarketing business we ran together. I was bored. When I get bored, I get in trouble or fall asleep. It's one or the other.

Malynda Madzel: He's always been like that. We moved to Maryland to raise our family. We love it here, but when the kids left, we realized we needed a new mission. Rich had started producing 10-minute plays for new playwrights, but he wanted to do

more. In 2018, while we were visiting family in Brooklyn, Rich said, “We need to find something that is a need that no one else is doing.” I said, “Here we go again.”

"Just because you're 80 years old doesn't mean you have to curl up and die. I don't want to talk about what used to be; I want to talk about what's coming tomorrow."

— RICH MADZEL

Rich: I had the whole plan for the comedy showcase written by the time we got off the New Jersey Turnpike. That's what I do: I get an idea and I go crazy on it for a few hours or days. Nine out of 10 of them go away, but once in a while, one sticks.

Malynda: We put together a comedy night for area stand-up acts, including first-timers.

Rich: I put the word out about what we were doing. Once, we were out to dinner with friends and the waiter was funny, so I asked, “Ever thought about doing comedy?” He said, “Actually, yes.”

Malynda: He performed at one of our shows.

Rich: We always need talent, so we bring it up all the time. You'd be surprised how many people think they're comedians.

Malynda: What I have enjoyed most about this is meeting all these talented people.

Rich: We do about 10 shows a year, at a local restaurant called 18th & 21st. The audience gets a great dinner and a fun night out.

Malynda: This community has been very good to us. This is our way to give back.

Rich: This is the ideal time in life to do something like this. Just because you're 80 years old doesn't mean you have to curl up and die. I don't want to talk about what used to be; I want to talk about what's coming tomorrow.

—As told to Faye McCray

Rich, 81, and Malynda Madzel, 75, are the founders of Try It Out Comedy in Columbia, Maryland.

Try stand-up for a second act



Comedian Sally Love, 75, often performs at the Try It Out Comedy Showcase in Columbia, Maryland. Launched by Howard County resident Rich Madzel, 81, last year, the comedy venue is drawing large crowds and new comedians. *Photo courtesy of Sally Craig.*



Stand-up comedy is now taught at Johns Hopkins by Adam Ruben. *Photo by Kevin Lynch*

By Robert Friedman
Posted on September 17, 2019

A funny thing happened to Rich Madzel on the way home from Brooklyn one night: He decided to open a comedy club.

The idea came to him about a year ago on the New Jersey Turnpike, as he and his wife were returning to Columbia, Maryland after visiting their daughter.

“It occurred to me that I was bored and needed more to do,” said the now 81-year-old businessman and theater impresario. For the past 20 years, he has been producing the “Try It Out Theater” in Columbia, where readings of new 10-minute plays are given.

So last September, Madzel opened the “Try It Out Comedy Showcase.” Its monthly 90-minute shows feature stand-up comedians from throughout the Washington/Baltimore region.

The comedians who take to the stage, located in the 18th & 21st supper club on Grantchester Way in Columbia, are of all ages, Madzel said — from teenagers to 70-plus jokesters. Their routines last from three minutes for the newcomers to 30 minutes for the headliners.

Madzel has found stand-up comedians to be a breed apart.

“Stand-up is an art form,” he said, “and the people who do it are fascinating. I have one woman comedian who drives 150 miles from Delaware to do a three-minute bit. It’s like a drug for them. They have to get people to laugh.”

First the doctor told me the good news: I was going to have a disease named after me. — Steve Martin

One big difference between the routines performed at Madzel’s club and in many other comedy venues: The comics are required to tell clean jokes.

“There is enough funny stuff going on in life, and I do not want to hear language I used in the street as a kid” in Brooklyn, he said.

On the other hand, he added, “we are not quite Sunday school, and our audience appreciates our level of comedy. We have been fortunate to perform before sell-out crowds of 75 people, mostly older than those attending typical comedy shows. “At a recent show, we had in the audience four judges, 15 attorneys, and former Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman.”

One of the most senior stand-up comedians to have appeared at the club is Sally Craig (stage name: Sally Love). Craig, a longtime Washington, D.C. resident and a widow, started doing standup this January, not long after celebrating her 75th birthday.

What led her to the stage?

"A year ago, I took a friend who had been through a sad time to a stand-up show to cheer her up, and it just came upon me: I want to do stand-up!

"I like to make people laugh. I loved Lucille Ball, Sid Caesar, Ernie Kovacs, Carol Burnett, all the TV greats," Craig added.

She only got the confidence to actually prepare a stand-up routine after taking a comedy writing class last summer with Alan Zweibel, an early writer for *Saturday Night Live*.

She recently appeared at the Columbia club, where she told the audience all about her current "social life."

It's fine and dandy she said, if she meets a guy with conditions such as sleep apnea, macular degeneration and even erectile dysfunction, as long "as he's not a Yankee fan or goes full Anthony Weiner on me."

Craig also performed on June 8 at the Woolly Mammoth Theater in downtown D.C. Hearing the laughter from the crowd "was certainly intoxicating," she said.

Why can't you explain puns to kleptomaniacs? They always take things literally.

If not an addiction, stand-up has certainly become "a passion" for Ken Watter, who lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland. When he's not making them roll in the aisles at the Columbia club, he's figuring out their finances as a CPA.

Watter took to the stand-up stage in 2007, following his divorce. "I went into walk-in comedy shows in the area, looking for laughs," he said. "A lot of the stand-ups were horrible.

"I decided, 'I can do that.' When I started out, I was horrible, too."

Then came classes at the famous DC Improv on Connecticut Avenue south of Dupont Circle, whose stage has hosted performances since 1992 by the likes of Dave Chappelle, Ellen DeGeneres and Jerry Seinfeld, among other headliners.

"I learned how really to do stand-up there, from holding audiences to constructing jokes," Watter said.

Becoming a stand-up comedian has helped him in his CPA business, Watter said. "Now, I can actually make people laugh when I talk to them about the IRS," he said.

Benjamin Franklin may have discovered electricity, but the man who invented the meter made all the money. — Johnny Carson

Another comedian who hasn't quit his day job is Bob Jeffers, who lives in Bethesda, Maryland. Like Watter, Jeffers also started doing stand-up later in life — a year ago, when he reached his 60th birthday. He did it, he said, "to fulfill an item on my bucket list. I'm not getting any younger, I told myself. Let me try it."

The stand-up urge started when he was about seven years old, listening to Bill Cosby records. Now that he's finally living his dream, Jeffers said he lives "a double life. I sell long-term care insurance by day, then I step into a phone booth at night and come out with a tight-fitting outfit with the letter C (for Comedian) on it."

Why did the belt go to jail? Because it held up a pair of pants. — Laffy Taffy

Errol Krass is a recent retiree who discovered a new life on the stand-up stages in the area. Krass, 68, who has been "telling jokes my whole life," is also a recent graduate of comedy courses at DC Improv.

After retiring as a patent lawyer two years ago, the longtime Olney resident decided to start telling his jokes, if not for a living, at least for some extra change. His first stage appearance was in a Columbia warehouse, where Madzel was putting on his first comedy shows.

So far Krass has picked up a few tricks, he said. "For instance, the rule of three — it's always funnier when a rabbi, a priest and a minister enter some place rather than just two of them."

Krass, a Brooklyn-bred comedian, says his comedy has its roots “in the Borscht Belt,” the nickname given to a group of resorts located in New York’s Catskill Mountains that had their heyday during the 1940s and 50s.

The hotels catered to New York City Jews, and featured comedians such as Jerry Lewis, Sid Caesar and Henny Youngman.

Krass said a lot of his routine for the older crowd in the audience is also geared to early TV shows, such as the Western *Have Gun, Will Travel*.

“I tell the audience, if they know of other possible gigs for me, ‘Have large prostate, will travel.’”

Tickets for Try It Out Comedy Showcase are \$12 (\$15 at the door) and are available at [EventBrite.com](https://www.EventBrite.com). The next performance will take place on Nov. 4 at 18th & 21st Restaurant, 10980 Grantchester Way, #110, Columbia, Maryland. For more information or a schedule, call (443) 745-0332.

Howie Committee
Howard County Arts Council
Howard County Center for the Arts
8510 High Ridge Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

April 8, 2023

Dear Committee Members:

We are pleased to offer our strong support for the nomination of Malynda and Rich Madzel for the 2023 Howie Award for Outstanding Business or Community Supporter of the Arts.

We have known the Madzels for over 35 years and have witnessed first-hand the several ways in which they have supported, advocated for, and engaged with our arts community.

Always involved in the community while running successful businesses, upon selling those businesses, rather than retiring to a lower community profile, they used the additional time they found to throw themselves into their passion for the arts, along with a continuing commitment to many other community-based efforts.

Using their business acumen, they leveraged support and a wide network of businesses and individual arts supporters to provide a unique homegrown space for budding artists to "Try it Out." Try It Out started as a venue for untested playwrights to have their work read in a supportive environment. That transitioned to Try It Out Comedy a few years later which has provided local and regional aspiring comedic talent an opportunity to work on their material and to get live feedback from an audience.

Given Rich and Malynda's deep and long-standing connections to the business community, they have been able to secure venues which allow the local business community (and the public at large) to participate in supporting nascent talent. Those connections also brought the audiences in, resulting in crowds that have sold out many evenings' performances.

In addition to their specific achievement and success of these efforts noted above, both Rich and Malynda have continued to support community arts efforts throughout the county.

On the side, Rich has also demonstrated his creative talents by writing and producing his own plays, creating a board game combining five-card poker with a popular word game and writing a few puzzle books.

For their talents in combining their knowledge of the business and arts community and their tireless efforts to promote local artistic talent, we strongly support Rich and Malynda as the Howie Business or Community Supporter of the Arts nomination.

Respectively yours,

Kevin J. Kelehan, former Howie Business Supporter Award Winner
Stacie Hunt



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

— 1852 —

*Sellinger School of
Business and Management
Dean*

April 13, 2023

Howie Committee
Howard County Arts Council
Howard County Center for the Arts
8510 High Ridge Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased and honored to support the nomination of Malynda and Rich Madzel for the 2023 Howie Award for Outstanding Community Supporter of the Arts.

I have known the Madzel's for over 20 years and I've witnessed firsthand the several ways in which they have supported, advocated for and engaged with this community.

Malynda and Rich have been business and civic leaders in the community for many years. Malynda began an innovative B2B call center while Rich operated as a corporate executive. During that time period, they extended their personal treasure with a commitment of their time and talent to many not-for-profit organizations in the community. The Community Foundation of Howard County, the Economic Development Authority, the Women's Giving Circle, the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and the Horizon Foundation are just some of the organizations benefitting from Malynda's leadership.

While their energies were devoted to these forms of improving the communities in which they lived and worked, they constantly exhibited their personal passion for the arts, and specifically the work of the Howard County Arts Council. They attended events, celebrated talent and financially supported local artists over the years.

In more recent years, Rich became committed to helping young artists, interested in producing new plays. This, in turn, introduced them to other artists, who sometimes operated on the fringes of the Arts community – stand-up comedians. So, in these more recent years, in a way that only they could accomplish, they have made that their mission. They have provided a forum for stand-up comedians from all over the country to be introduced to Howard County. In the process, they have brought laughter to our lives in a difficult time for society. They have supported a number of local restaurants that acted in a serial fashion as venues. And they've created a new community of followers.

If the arts are all about innovation and creation; if the arts are all about leveraging the talents of individuals and extending it to psychic and economic enrichment of the community; if the arts are all about opening our minds to new ideas, the work that the Madzel's have done certainly qualifies them for recognition as outstanding Community Supporter of the Arts.

Respectfully ,

Mary Ann Scully

April 16, 2023

Howie Committee 2023

Howard County Arts Council

Howard County Center for the Arts

8510 High Ridge Road

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Committee Members,

Joan and I are extremely proud to support the nomination of Malynda and Rich Madzel for the 2023 Howie Award for the Outstanding Business or Community Supporter of the Arts.

We have known the Madzels for over 20 years, and have witnessed first hand the many ways in which they have supported, engaged and advocated for our arts community in Howard County. For the past 6 years we have attended the monthly comedy shows they have presented thru Try It Out Comedy. These shows have been absolutely fabulous, providing an evening of laughter and joy for all the attendees. These shows are excellent opportunities for new comedians, as well as experienced ones, to try their hand at entertainment in front of a live audience. Every show has been a sell out!

Prior to Try It Out Comedy, the Madzels started Try It Out Theater, which we also attended with regularity, and we thoroughly enjoyed each performance! Malynda and Rich have brought outstanding entertainment to Howard County and their passion for the arts is a true labor of love!! We are very fortunate to have them in our community, and we believe they are perfect to be selected for this award by the Arts Council Committee.

Thank you very much for your consideration,



Barb Van Winkle



Joan Lovelace

