

# Coloring their worlds

The arts have brought color, texture, sound and vigor to **Leann Johnson's** Vancouver home, and she'd like to share the sensory and emotional wealth. Johnson has been appointed first vice chairwoman for the Washington State Arts Commission, putting her in line to be the next chairwoman.

The director for Equity and Diversity at Clark College, Johnson took up the drums at age 40 and recently played a kleptomaniac in a community theater production, "Oh, Baby, Baby!" Both her daughters are artists, she says, and the elder has agreed to paint something with a diversity theme for Johnson's office.

"I've seen my daughter thriving at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics," Johnson said. "What's important for me is the self-esteem of children, when they see what they're capable of doing."

The state commission deals with practicalities as well as aesthetics. Johnson said one commission project is to build partnerships to provide health insurance to artists.