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Forty Under 40 Honoree: Ian MacConnell

Business First of Columbus

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Ian MacConnell

Record label: [W Ohio Supercomputer Center](#), creative director**Age:** 38**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, communications, Purdue University Calumet, 1993**Civic gigs:** University Area Commission, Columbus Community Coalition, University Area Enrichment Association**Which TV theme song/music best describes your attitude and why?** *Law & Order*. I am pretty serious about setting clear standards for order in my community. I enjoy working with law enforcement and the city attorney's office to make the University District a safer place for the students and a peaceful neighborhood for all.**Who was the first person or group you remember seeing perform, and what was your reaction?** The Clash on *Saturday Night Live* in my parents' room when I was 11 years old. They did *Should I Stay or Should I Go*, and I was hooked.**Explain how music influences you your work or community endeavors you might be involved with:** I like any kind of music that tells a good tale, stands for something or speaks to social justice. Johnny Cash comes to mind. I am moved by music daily, and I owe my DIY mindset to the punk and hard-core scenes of the late 1980s and early '90s. Bands like Minor Threat and Dag Nasty made me think I could make a change in this world.**You're stranded on a deserted island – although miraculously one with a solitary electrical outlet – and can choose three pieces of music, songs, albums or genres to listen to. What would they be?** Hard core/punk, classic country and reggae. It is an island.**If you wanted to pass along your most sage advice to the younger generation, what song title would best reflect your thoughts:** Gorilla Biscuits' *Competition*. "Ego trips get in the way of the goals we set." Don't let this happen. Stay positive in all you do.**"I change the station any time (insert song title or artist's name) comes on the radio:** I am not a fan of smooth jazz and would probably change that pretty quick.**What, if any, instrument do you play?** Bass and the guitar, but not very well, much to my wife's chagrin.[View Larger](#)**Search for Jobs** powered by onTargetJobs[View Columbus Jobs - 1125 jobs today](#)

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If you were to learn to play an instrument, what would it be? Saxophone

My favorite musical performer is: Tie between Johnny Cash and Iggy Pop

What music do you listen to when working, relaxing, playing? Working, hard core, punk and metal; relaxing, bluegrass, reggae, classic rock, classic country; playing, anything you can dance to.

What's on your iPod? The Hairy Patt Band, the New Bomb Turks, Integrity, the Last Poets, RJD2, Them Wranch


What song or artist has influenced you and in what ways? Ian MacKaye's lyrics from (his days with) Minor Threat through Fugazi have always made me consider my impact on the world both environmentally and socially. His music makes me think you can do whatever you put your mind to, as long as it is positive.

If you play or played in a band, describe the type and what lessons you gleaned? I played in a band called the Mudflap Girls from Venus, and we were lucky enough to play the Monterey Pop Festival 30-year anniversary in California. I learned that you can be a rock star if you want to, but it isn't as easy as it looks. You've got to work together to make good music, and when you get on stage you have to rock like nothing can stop you. And don't forget to get paid – that's the really hard part.


Best performance you ever saw and when: Jon Spencer Blues Explosion at Stache's in 1994, and he got up and played on the bar. It was killer. Most every great show that I can remember was there.

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