

City of Bellevue
ARTS
program

Bellevue Arts Commission



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

August 8, 2017
Special Meeting



“The arts are an important expression of how people think of and experience the city and each other. Bellevue seeks to foster a strong arts and cultural community chiefly supported through a wide range of artists, art and cultural institutions, and arts groups offering a variety experiences to an engaged audience.”

-City of Bellevue, Comprehensive Plan, Urban Design & the Arts Element

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Agenda

Agenda

Tuesday, August 8, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall, 1E-109

Bellevue Arts Commission

Commission Staff Contact: 425.452.4105

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 4:30
Chair Manfredi will call the meeting to order.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES** 4:30 – 4:35
 - A. Chair Manfredi will ask for approval of the agenda.
 - B. Chair Manfredi will ask for approval of the July 2017 regular meeting minutes.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 4:35 – 4:40
Chair Manfredi will entertain oral communications limited to three minutes per person or five minutes if representing the official position of a recognized community organization for other than main agenda items and public hearing subject. A maximum of three people are permitted to speak to each side of any one topic.
4. **ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. StART East Link Light Rail Art Presentation 4:40 – 5:20
 - B. 2018 Bellwether Program 5:20 – 6:00
5. **COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS** 6:00 – 6:05
6. **REPORTS** 6:05 – 6:10
 - A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports
 - B. Project Updates from Staff
7. **CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION** 6:10 – 6:15
 - A. Written correspondence (if any)
 - B. Information
 2. Committees
8. **ADJOURNMENT** 6:15
Chair Manfredi will adjourn the meeting.

Wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available upon request, and large print agendas available upon request. Please contact the Arts Program at least two days in advance jheim@bellevuewa.gov ▪ 425-452-4105 (Voice) ▪ Please dial 711 for assistance for the hearing impaired.

ARTS COMMISSION MEMBERS

Paul Manfredi, Chair

Philip Malkin, Vice Chair

Maria Lau Hui

Trudi Jackson

Rebecca Lewis

Carl Wolfeich

Mayor John Stokes, Council Liaison

STAFF CONTACTS

Joshua Heim, Arts Program Manager, 425-452-4105

Scott MacDonald, Arts Program Coordinator, 425-452-4852

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Minutes

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

July 11, 2017
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Manfredi, Commissioners Jackson, Lau Hui, Lewis, Malkin, Wolfteich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Joshua Heim, Scott MacDonald, Bradley Calvert, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: John Sutton, Ben Beres, Zac Culler, SuttentBeresCuller

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairperson Manfredi who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Jackson, who arrived at 4:34 p.m., and Commissioner Wolfteich, who arrived at 4:57 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Malkin. Second was by Commissioner Lewis and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that in the Call to Order section of the minutes, "Commissioner Malkin" should read "Chair Manfredi."

Motion to approve the June 6, 2017, minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Lewis. Second was by Commissioner Lau Hui and the motion carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Robin Baer introduced herself as representing the Mercer Slough Environmental Center.

Mr. Mark Heilman introduced himself as the community engagement lead in the Planning and Community Development. He said his role is to help the department reach out to the community to make sure as many groups and people as possible are heard.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Grand Connection Briefing

Community Development Manager Bradley Calvert said he serves as project manager for the Wilburton Grand Connection project. He noted that the framework plan was recently released documenting a series of recommendations for the project along with the next steps. He added that the art and culture element is incorporated as part of the framework plan. He indicated that Commissioner Lau Hui is serving on the Wilburton commercial area CAC and also participated in the Grand Connection visioning charrette which kicked off the project.

Mr. Calvert said the visioning approach was broken into two sequences. The first dealt with the segment from Meydenbauer Bay to City Hall and involved a lot of existing infrastructure in the built environment. The second segment involved the I-405 crossing and the interface with the Wilburton commercial area and the Eastside Rail Corridor. He outlined on a map the proposed Grand Connection route, the Wilburton commercial area study area, and the Eastside Rail Corridor. He noted that during the visioning process the tighter urban environment between the transit center and Bellevue Square was not necessarily appropriate for cyclists, especially commuter cyclists, and it was determined that additional improvements would be needed to accommodate cyclists. One of the recommendations received from the design consultant was to expand the route as a long-term vision to include Main Street to tie into the Wilburton Hill Park.

In approaching the issue of identity, some of the concepts generated included enhancing the natural landscape, incorporating sustainable infrastructure, a playful landscape, and a historical landscape. In the online poll, natural landscaping was by far the most popular. The concepts are now, however, mutually exclusive.

The next tier of the visioning process has involved identifying cohesive design strategies, the smaller elements that stitch the entire route together. Weather protection was identified by the public via various outreach efforts. The design team has put together a series of diagrams that identify locations for various types of weather protection elements, including linear installations, single canopy installations, and modified light posts that evoke similar design aesthetics. A detailed plan for landscaping has been put together in response to the call of the public for natural landscapes. The cohesive design strategies also include sustainable infrastructure and the inclusion of art and culture elements.

Samples of paving concepts were shared with the Commissioners. The first two of the three options focused on the blurring and fading of the hardscape and the softscape, and the third took a more rigid and jagged shape. Mr. Calvert said an online poll to determine public preferences is currently showing the third option to be the most popular.

The planning work has focused on improving connectivity and mobility, including the range and safety for both pedestrians and cyclists. A number of small-scale improvements have been identified and the framework plan includes a series of recommendations relative to signal timing, raised intersections and enhanced bicycle lanes. The notion of raised intersections carries with it unique opportunities for including art. New transportation technologies are also considered in the plan, including autonomous shuttles that move at the same speed and share the same space as cyclists.

The planning has included looking at public spaces. Some significant nodes have been identified, including Downtown Park, NE 6th Street at Bellevue Way, Compass Plaza and the transit center. The main goal is to enhance the flexibility of the spaces and to create gateways. Downtown Park lacks a proper entrance at NE 4th Street and Bellevue Way. A revisioning of Compass Plaza is needed given the fragmented nature of the existing space. The desired outcome is improved integration and flexibility of the public space. As envisioned, the Compass Plaza circulation is consolidated in a single location with an integrated ramp and stairway, creating seating opportunities and an open forum that could serve as a permanent

home for a farmers market, space for food trucks, and a water feature which could in the winter be converted into an ice skating rink.

Mr. Calvert said art and culture is viewed as a defining element of the route and as being supportive of the various cohesive design strategies and gateways. The desire is to elevate the role of arts and culture in the city through building on technology but also creating whimsy and discovery in the downtown in ways that enhance the route.

The draft framework plan that was recently released deals specifically with the segment from Meydenbauer Bay to the Civic Center District. The goal is to seek public comment on the draft document with Council adoption in the fall. The document is readily available on the project website. A portion of the art and culture plan is incorporated into the draft framework.

Mr. Calvert informed the Commissioners that the I-405 crossing is addressed in the Wilburton environmental impact statement. The visioning goals are to create a safe and comfortable connection; opportunities for public space; integration and cohesion with future development opportunities; interface with 116th Avenue NE; interface with the Eastside Rail Corridor; and be signature in form, design and experience.

Three concepts have been developed with various levels of complexity and scale. The first alternative anticipates a sculptural bridge that uses the existing infrastructure of NE 6th Street and crosses the interstate with new infrastructure and landing on the city owned Lincoln Center property and finally interfacing with the Eastside Rail Corridor. The second alternative envisions a more Highline-like concept while also being safe and comfortable for pedestrians. The third option looks at how to cover up a majority of the interstate between NE 4th Street and NE 6th Street. The design is ambitious and is challenged by having to deal with three freeway on-ramps. The creation of a rolling topography, however, speaks to the natural topography while providing for public space, viewing platforms and play areas. The freeway crossing alternatives have not yet been formally released to the public, though they have been shared with the Council. One released, they will be the subject of an online open house

Mr. Calvert said the 15-member CAC appointed to look at revising the entire 300-acre Wilburton commercial area will be developing three alternatives, including a no action alternative. There is no intent to turn the area into an extension of the downtown. They want to see something unique that includes community oriented businesses, moderate and affordable housing, space for incubator and tech startups, parks and open space, transit and trail-oriented development, artist housing and workspace, and diversity. The draft environmental impact statement, which will include the Grand Connection freeway crossing element, will be released in September, after which the alternatives will be refined in working toward establishing a preferred alternative. Art and culture is expected to permeate the area, though how exactly to achieve that is yet to be determined.

Mr. Calvert said one thing the team wants to do is showcase local innovation, technology and art and make it part of the Grand Connection. The economic development shared with the team an image of people playing Tetris as part of an artist installation outside the Tel Aviv city hall. The idea led to the team partnering with several local technology companies around the notion of creating a human-sized Simon game and making it an event for the city. At 20 feet in diameter, the game would activate the Civic Center plaza for two nights and then become something that can be deployed to key events around the city. The project has brought together local companies and local students to create the design. A buzz is being generated for an event on September 29 and 30, with a soft launch on September 28.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Lewis about traffic noise from the freeway, Mr. Calvert said the intent is to design the alternatives to mitigate the sounds of the interstate.

The sculptural bridge actually functions as a wall, but landscaping will also reduce traffic noise.

Commissioner Malkin asked what ideas the team is looking for relative to art and culture in the Wilburton area. Mr. Calvert said the focus is on what will make the area unique while speaking specifically to Bellevue. The CAC and the public who took the survey believe the area could in fact be a hub for art and culture. The team will be looking for feedback on how to make the concepts reality.

B. Draft Grand Connection Art & Cultural Element

Arts Program Manager Joshua Heim said the team has been working to finalize the document. He allowed that much of the content in the current document has already been seen by the Commission, but the formatting and structure has changed to be more user friendly.

Ben Beres with SuttentBeresculler said he was happy to be presenting the final document. He reiterated that the changes from the last draft have mostly been to the design. Several images and case studies were added, and some minor edits were made to take into account comments made by staff and the Commission. Along with the bigger picture of the Grand Connection, the arts and culture component is viewed in the document as a placemaker and something that will influence arts and culture throughout Bellevue and the region instead of just having sculptures and artworks places along the Grand Connection route.

Mr. Beres said the document clearly outlines five goals: 1) the Grand Connection is an easily identifiable, clearly defined and culturally vibrant route; 2) Bellevue has a proud and visible identity as an arts and cultural community that embraces regional artists as a unique and vital resource; 3) downtown Bellevue is a culturally inclusive environment that encourages a diverse population to take part in Bellevue's cultural offerings; 4) downtown Bellevue is connected by seven new major public artworks; and 5) the city of Bellevue commits resources and staff to the development and ongoing operation of an arts and culture program specific to the Grand Connection and its vision as a flexible, curate-able cultural corridor. The goals are supported by nine strategies: 1) whole site approach; 2) initiate a program that provides ongoing opportunities for the creation and presentation of new works; 3) identify specific opportunities to address cultural, historical and community driven projects; 4) build and reinforce distinct neighborhood identifies along the route; 5) use art and cultural programming to enhance the civic experience; 6) forge partnerships between artists, government, the private sector and cultural organizations for the creation and presentation of new works; 7) provide economic incentives and development opportunities for the support of local artists and cultural organizations; 8) initiate a public relations program to communicate, educate and engage the public; and 9) implement a program that supports a wide range of art projects, which in turn foster community interaction.

Mr. Sutton said the events and programs section of the document is the core of what will create the continually evolving artwork. The section talks about Bellwether and how might change to act as a platform for exploring programs and ideas; the cultural collective, a notion of having organizations pool their resources and collaborate to grow audiences and advance Bellevue's cultural identity; the cultural plinths program, which seeks to create ongoing opportunities to support local and regional artists in the creation and presentation of new works displayed on designated platforms; the art walk, which builds on the Bellevue Arts Museum free first Friday program and the Bellwether art walks; downtown concerts; the emerging artist program providing opportunity for underrepresented artists; and a mural program. Pages 22 through 51 of the document explore in detail the individual sections and opportunities for art in each section of the Grand Connection. All of the action plans are summarized at the end of the document on pages 52 through 54.

Commissioner Lewis asked about the recommended entrance to Downtown Park. Mr. Sutton said that was addressed on page 44 and outlines the objective to create a clear and well-marked entrance to the park at the corner of NE 4th Street and Bellevue Way. The work to redesign the entrance is in fact under way and moving forward. The idea of a gateway public sculpture will probably be brought forward after the entrance design work has put to the public. The recommendation includes having an artist working with the entrance design team. Mr. Beres added that the Downtown Park entrance is also highlighted in the action plans.

Mr. Heim added that the northwest corner of Downtown Park has been master planned but it has not been designed. Parks will first undertake a design phase to design the entrance, and the recommendation is that an artist should be on the design team. Parks staff will be putting together an internal team, and Mr. Heim said he and Mr. Calvert have already put together a budget ahead of applying for art funding.

Commissioner Jackson asked if the Council will see the Grand Connection art and culture element as a chapter of the larger Wilburton/Grand Connection documentation. Mr. Heim said it will in fact be presented as an addendum. Commissioner Jackson said the level of detail in the document is so good that if the Council reads it first, they will have a better understanding of the vision. The work of implementation will begin after the document is adopted in the September/October timeframe.

Mr. Heim added that the document is meant to facilitate partnerships. Within each section the information has been distilled to a four-page spread. That will make it easier to go the Parks department with a specific focus, such as a vision for Downtown Park. He said he is already scheduled to speak with the Department of Development Services to discuss how the document relates to code work, and to the Parks department about opportunities in Downtown Park and in the second phase of the Meydenbauer Bay Park project. He said he would also be talking with the Transportation department about some early intersection projects.

Commissioner Malkin commented that the Commission's previously discussed approach of having individual Commissioners communicate with individual Councilmembers will go a long way toward motivating the Council to pay attention to the document.

C. Bellevue Creative Edge Update

Mr. Heim said the project has officially launched. The consultant contract has been signed with MDB Insight.

Chair Manfredi said there was a lot of energy in the first task force meeting, which lasted about two hours. The group articulated the idea of Bellevue for many years being the center of culture on the Eastside even though it is not fully "there" yet. There seemed to be a certain level of impatience with how things have developed. An architect talked about the possibility of shutting down Bellevue Way for something other than the Snowflake Lane event and having it be a regular activity. All manner of celebrations could be conducted there once the roadway is made into a pedestrian walkway.

Chair Manfredi said he felt MDB was a little bit off the mark in terms of envisioning what kind of moving the creative sector forward involves. The examples they were using centered on Vancouver, Richmond and Surrey in British Columbia where there are affluent cores and outdated warehouse districts, which is not at all where Bellevue is.

Mr. Heim said the MDB team working with staff is in the process of identifying the index cities. Part of the work of compiling information and doing an economic analysis about

Bellevue's creative economy will be the creation of benchmarks by comparing Bellevue to other cities. The team is currently knee deep in spreadsheets working on that by focusing on other cities of similar size. The problem is that cities of similar size do not always have the economy Bellevue has. Determining the comparison cities will entail a lot of research.

Mr. Heim shared with the Commission some of the materials generated by the consultant for the project. He informed them that going forward they may be contacted by people other than staff, including colleagues and neighbors in the community, and said he wanted them to have the background information. He called attention to the chart on page 68 of the packet which described the main phases of the project and noted that Phase 1, project initiation, has been completed. A project website is being developed and all materials about the project will be posted to the site. Phase 2 is under way and involves developing a values framework that will ultimately indicate why Bellevue values arts and culture. While the project ultimately is focused on determining the economic value of the arts and culture, it must be recognized that there is also value in terms of community and aesthetics. Phase 2 will involve interviews with stakeholders, including some Commissioners, and a creative economy survey by telephone that will be statistically valid.

Mr. Heim noted that beginning on page 70 of the packet there was information regarding the purpose, objectives and key messages of the project, followed on page 71 by a list of community engagement activities. He said the focus group visioning workshop element will occur in September. Details are still being worked out, but the intent is to do something exciting like the Grand Connection charrette with many people involved.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Lau Hui, Mr. Heim said the original thinking was that there would be two main events, including a launch event near the end of July. It was determined that would not be the best use of the consultant's time. The access for all legislation will change the conversation about arts and culture considerably, so it was suggested that the planned speakers forum should be put off until after August, followed by the focus groups. The two have since been combined into a single event.

Mr. Heim said ultimately the project is intended to identify and understand the scope of Bellevue's creative economy. The first three phases will involve research. The big objective of Phase 2 will be to identify Bellevue's creative niche and the larger vision for where Bellevue wants to be both short term and long term, and a strategy for getting there.

Commissioner Jackson said she was struck by the information shared previously about groups facing large rent increases for their work spaces as well as their living spaces. Much of the issue is being driven by the tech industry whose workers have far more money to work with. The gaming community is very large and is making it hard to have any other kind of creative impetus in the city. Having a strategy to support artists will not necessarily counter the fact that artists are being driven out of town by high rents. Chair Manfredi said the analysis will reveal the degree to which the arts outside of the gaming industry impact the city economically. Of course, the gamers also will want to participate in art, and having it priced out of the city would be a loss for everyone on multiple levels. Commissioner Jackson agreed.

Mr. Heim allowed that there is a dance playing out between the Creative Edge and the Cultural Compass. There is talk about the need to do a resident survey which would yield input for the process from more than just the business side of things. The pause button has been pushed until after August 1 to determine where things will stand with access for all.

Commissioner Lau Hui asked if the Commission would be meeting in August. Mr. Heim said the Commission has traditionally taken August off, which is what the Council does. If a

meeting were to be held, the agenda items would be the grant guidelines, the Bellwether proposals and the issue of affordable arts space.

Chair Manfredi argued in favor of holding a meeting on August 1.

Commissioner Malkin said a meeting in August would bolster the Commission's work of getting the ducks in a row for lobbying the Councilmembers. Bellevue faces facilities challenges, and the work may demonstrate that there is a population that comes into the city, namely those in the gaming industry, who swell the ranks of creative workers but who do not stay. Doing a survey will yield information about the creative workers who actually live in Bellevue or at least in the region. Those are the constituents the city needs to support rather than the creative tech workers. Mr. Heim agreed and pointed out that it is more than just tech workers who swell the ranks; it is also architects and graphic designers. The preliminary data from the Washington State Arts Commission shows that Bellevue is home to a lot of photographers who simply work out of their homes. Part of the work MDB will do will involve geocoding and creating maps, which will in turn enable conversations about clusters and districts.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS

A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports

Commissioner Malkin reported that submissions for the Lattawood project have been low. Mr. MacDonald said the call that was put out was very specific. To date, there have been some 12 applications received, one of which uses lights but there is some question as to whether or not the artist would be able to actually do the work. All of the applications have been reviewed as to whether or not the required qualifications are met. Some have said the budget is somewhat low for the project. Three of the applicants have a clear understanding of the budget and the scope of work, and at least one of the artists would do a great job. More applications could still be received before the July 12 deadline.

Commissioner Malkin asked about the possibility of splitting the project into two, with the lighting as one project and an art installation as another project. Mr. MacDonald said if it is determined that the pool of applicants is insufficient, that could be one alternative. Another option would be to increase the budget, but that is a less viable approach.

B. Project Updates from Staff – As Noted

Mr. Heim said the East Link project is moving forward. He said all of the City Hall plaza artwork is slated to be removed on July 12 and placed in storage.

Mr. MacDonald said he met recently with transportation staff about the Lake Hills art project. He said they are happy with the location chosen on the Lake Hills Greenbelt. Because the light standards there are slightly different from the ones in the downtown, a different bracket may be required. The artist is also happy with the location.

With regard to *Night Blooming*, Mr. MacDonald said the artist is actively seeking a contractor to create a foundation at the chosen location in the Botanical Garden. The problem is that the site is very difficult to access with concrete. Accordingly, other sites with easier or more direct access are being considered.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

A. Written Correspondence – As Noted

B. Information – As Noted

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Manfredi adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Action & Discussion

Action and Discussion

Tuesday, August 08, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 pm

Bellevue Arts Commission
Action and Discussion

StART East Link Light Rail Art Presentation

At today's meeting Kurt Kiefer, Sound Transit Art Program Manager, will present initial art concepts by the artist Christian Moeller for the East Link Light Rail project at the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) located in BelRed along the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC). The artwork project will be submitted to the City of Bellevue as part of Sound Transit's Master Development Permit application. The Arts Commission will be asked to provide feedback on the concept.

INTENT: Art in the Bel-Red Subarea should complement the character of a site, building or district as a whole. Art should be integrated into the design of the building or outdoor space.

GUIDELINE: Large scale art in both public and private applications should bring focus to an outdoor space while small scale pieces should bring detail to the pedestrian realm surrounding a building or site. At any scale, art should not overwhelm outdoor spaces or render buildings mere backdrops.

PROPOSAL: The Sound Transit Art Program (StArt) has engaged artist Christian Moeller to develop a linear or sequential work of art to enhance the perimeter fence of the OMF along the ERC. Moeller was chosen through a competitive selection process in cooperation with the City of Bellevue Art Commission and 4Culture, the King County cultural funding agency. Moeller's initial concept imagines a palisade of +/- 135 poles, possibly painted with accent colors and spaced at 10 foot intervals, punctuated by taller poles near the mid-point of the site. The tallest poles would be topped with sculptural forms. As seen at an acute angle by pedestrians or cyclists, the artwork will largely screen the facility. When viewed at a less acute angle, the space between the poles will be spanned by a well-crafted, simple fence material and will allow for views into the facility. During design development, StArt and Moeller will present his work for review during the course of regular Project reviews and at separate reviews with the City of Bellevue Arts Commission.

Action and Discussion

Tuesday, August 08, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 pm

Bellevue Arts Commission
Action and Discussion

2018 Bellwether Program

At today's meeting arts program staff will present its recommendations for the 2018 Bellwether program and request Commission endorsement of an updated program framework, curatorial approach and scope, and preliminary timeline and budget.

BACKGROUND

Since its opening in 1992, the city has presented a juried biennial sculpture exhibition to provide enjoyment to the community, show a broad variety of sculptures, and expand the concept of what sculpture is. For the first ten years, the Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition primarily operated in Downtown Park from July through October, with additional locations such as the Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue Regional Library, and Meydenbauer Center. In 2006, temporary art installations and projects were added when Bellevue City Hall opened and was added as a venue. By 2010, the exhibition formally changed its name to Bellwether with the explicit mission to express an "art walk" from Downtown Park to City Hall through a linked route along the Pedestrian Corridor. The name Bellwether was chosen because its meaning—"a sign of things to come"—and gestured to the vision of an art walk in Downtown Bellevue. Organizing themes were also added at this time.

In 2017, the artist team SuttonBeresCuller developed an arts and cultural element for the grand connection project, which proposes a pedestrian and bicycle route through Downtown Bellevue that connects the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) in the Wilburton neighborhood to Meydenbauer Bay Park on Lake Washington. The grand connection route includes the Pedestrian Corridor, the traditional site of Bellwether. SuttonBeresCuller worked with the Arts Commission to develop a vision and strategy for arts and culture in the grand connection that includes the concept of a cultural corridor and opportunities to align the Bellwether program to this new vision.

The recommendations presented here are based on the following opportunities identified in the current draft Grand Connection Arts and Cultural Element:

- Reimagine Bellwether as an annual 10-day curated multi-disciplinary exhibition and festival.
- Encourage deep and meaningful partnerships with Bellevue's cultural institutions.
- Rely on well-respected local and international curators to develop a broad and diverse visual and performing arts program.
- Pursue special projects and collaborations.

UPDATED PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

FRAMEWORK	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Purpose: <i>What is Bellwether?</i>	Since its opening in 1992, the city has presented a juried biennial sculpture exhibition...	Bellwether is a free, annual, multi-disciplinary arts exhibition and festival produced by the City of Bellevue in collaboration with Bellevue’s arts community. For ten days and nights, Bellevue acts boldly with vision, imagination, enthusiasm, and ingenuity; pushing the creative limits of the city through a series of contemporary arts experiences.
<i>Why is Bellwether?</i>	...to provide enjoyment to the community, show a broad variety of sculptures, and expand the concept of what sculpture is. “Bellwether” is an old name for the lead sheep that guides the flock. In the 20 th century its use expanded to mean a sign of things to come. Futurists used the word, for instance, to describe places where trends emerge, as in, “Washington is a bellwether state.”	The name Bellwether was chosen as a symbol of the overarching mission of this exhibition and festival: to showcase Bellevue’s creative future and stir creative energy, provide inspiration, and promote self-expression and out-of-the-box-thinking to turn that future into reality.
Goals: <i>What does it do for the community, for the city, for the arts program?</i>	The exhibition has served as a vital resource to artists, providing a platform for emerging artists to show publicly for the first time and for established artists to expand their audience and patrons. A number of artworks have been purchased for the city’s permanent public art collection. The city also has cultivated a unique niche among municipal art programs regarding support for temporary public art projects.	From its beginnings in 1992 as the Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition, Bellwether has attracted people and sculptors from around the region to contribute creative vitality to Downtown Bellevue every other year. Now that people live in Downtown and creative talent is growing in the city, the exhibition and festival exists to harness this energy and build the capacity of the community to sustain a lively and diverse arts scene in Downtown Bellevue by 2025.
Objectives: <i>What are we trying to accomplish with Bellwether?</i>	Use Public Art to Define/Enhance an Urban Walkway from City Hall to Waterfront. The City is engaged in several planning efforts to realize a host of aspirations for the Downtown: connecting the Downtown with the Waterfront, completing the Pedestrian Corridor, establishing “Great Streets,” and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Build the arts community of artists, organizations, and stakeholders along the Grand Connection route to coordinate and share resources. ~ Heighten awareness –of and make connections between activities along the entire route. ~ Promote tourism and grow new audiences that are increasingly diverse, highly educated, and international. ~ Cultivate a more active and interesting night life, especially for Downtown residents and employees. ~ Enliven and enhance the streetscape as an active and interesting place to be. ~ Encourage experimentation, innovation, and risk-taking with an emphasis on diversity, technology, and community building. ~ Support local and regional artists in the creation and presentation of new works.
<i>How will we know if and when we achieve our goals?</i>	N/A	See “art scene indicators”

CURATORIAL APPROACH

The Bellwether program has been a partnership between the Bellwether Committee who creates an exhibition prospectus and call for artworks and a jury who selects artworks. The proposed curatorial approach relies on well-respected local and international curators to develop a broad and diverse visual and performing arts program. Additionally, the shift to paid curators will accommodate a yearly schedule and the incorporation of community partners.

APPROACH	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Program development	Arts Commission Bellwether Committee.	The Bellwether curator and community partners.
Program scope	In recent years we've shown around 40 sculptures are typically included in the exhibition from mid-June through September (3.5 months). Sculptures are placed between Downtown Park and City Hall.	Up to 10 artists, artist teams, or organizations will be selected to create projects in multiple media including events/performances for 10 days in July. Projects could include art installations by individual artists, group shows, literary or performance series, etc. As the Grand Connection has more than doubled the length of the Bellwether site, yearly programs will be focused on sections of the Grand Connection including: 2018: Bellevue Way to City Hall Plaza 2019: Downtown Park to Meydenbauer Bay Park 2020: Wilburton
Selection criteria	Sculptures and temporary/site-specific proposals will be selected based on artistic quality. Entries aligning with the exhibition theme will then receive preferred consideration.	To be determined by the curator with parameters determined by community partners.
Who is involved?	Work is selected through a jury of typically three artists and arts professionals selected based upon the content and quality of their own artwork and their expertise in the field. This is followed by a review by the City to consider questions of technical feasibility and public safety and the art's safety.	Projects are developed as a partnership between the curator, artist, property owner/manager, and city staff.
Arts Commission involvement?	Endorses the exhibition prospectus, call for artworks, jury and budget.	Endorses the call for curator/curator scope of work, selection of the curator, and budget. The Arts Commission also provides feedback on the curatorial approach and interpretive framework/project concepts.

CURATOR SCOPE OF WORK

Name: Curator, Bellwether Exhibition & Festival
Location: Bellevue, WA
Budget: \$7,500
Project dates: September 1st 2017 through July 31st, 2018

The curator will consult with the City of Bellevue Arts Program under the general direction of the arts program manager to develop the program strategy and interpretive plan for the 2018 Bellwether Exhibition and Festival (Bellwether) between July 20 and July 29, 2018. The curator will:

- Develop a curatorial approach that meet the goals and objectives of the Bellwether program and present to the Bellevue Arts Commission;
- Recommend a roster of artists with project assignments that respond to City procurement criteria and procedures;
- Work with artists and site owners on project concepts to inform an interpretive framework and present this to program stakeholders and the Bellevue Arts Commission;
- Work with artists and site owners on final project proposals to inform an exhibition list and event/performance schedule;
- Produce written exhibition and festival interpretive content; and
- Present the exhibition to the public during the Bellwether program.
- The curator will have the optional task of producing an art project to be included in the Bellwether program.

2018 Curator: SuttonBeresCuller

Staff recommends the artist group SuttonBeresCuller to be the 2018 Bellwether curator based on their accomplishments as artists; extensive network of local, regional, and national artists; familiarity with Bellevue and the Grand Connection as the result of their work on the Grand Connection Art and Cultural Element; and time constraints of planning Bellwether for the 2018 summer season.

BUDGET

PROGRAM	Total	2017	2018
		Planning	Implementation
Curator	\$ 7,500	\$3,500	\$4,000
Advisors, Partners, Fees	\$ 2,500	\$2,500	
Projects	\$ 95,000	\$19,000	\$76,000
Sub total	\$ 105,000	\$25,000	\$80,000

Lead:

OPERATIONS	Total	2017	2018
		Planning	Implementation
Engineering & Permits	\$ 2,500		\$2,500
Installation & De-installation			\$25,000
Security	\$ 10,000		\$10,000
Volunteer coordination	\$ 5,000		\$5,000
Supplies	\$ 1,500		\$1,500
Refreshments	\$ 1,200	\$200	\$1,000
Sub total	\$ 20,200	\$200	\$45,000

Lead:

MARKETING & INTERPRETATION	Total	2017	2018
		Planning	Implementation
Communications Consultant	\$ 5,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
Printing	\$ 3,000		\$3,000
Graphic design	\$ 5,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
Photography & Video	\$ 5,000		\$5,000
Advertising	\$ 11,300	\$1,300	\$10,000
Signs & STQRY	\$ 2,000		\$2,000
Merchandise/Giveaways	\$ 2,000		\$2,000
Sub total	\$ 33,300	\$3,300	\$30,000

Lead:

CONTINGENCY	\$ -		
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TOTAL \$ 158,500 \$28,500 \$155,000

CRITICAL PATH TO JULY 20, 2018 EXHIBITION OPENING

Program

- Hire curator **August 15**
- Curatorial statement & approach **September 15**
- Artist selection **November 15**
- Interpretive framework & project concepts **December 15**
- Final exhibition list & festival event and performance schedule **March 15**
- Final project proposals
- Submit permit applications
- Artwork fabrication begins
- Installation contractor selected **April 15**
- Complete artwork production/installation **July 18**

Marketing & Interpretation

- Marketing team selection **November 15**
- Brand & graphic identity **February 15**
- Final marketing & social media plan **March 15**
- Advertising production begins
- Interpretive content completed (text) **May 1**
- Interpretive media production begins
- Engagement strategy: Volunteer, docent/tours, and education **April 15**
- Marketing campaign begins **June 15**
- Interpretive material produced (brochures, website, etc.) **July 16**
- Bellwether preview party **July 19**
- Bellwether opens **July 20**

Quick Business

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Bellevue Arts Commission

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Reports

PROJECT UPDATES

PUBLIC ART

Bellwether 2018: Exhibition & Art Walk

No updates to report.

East Link Public Art

Update, August 8, 2017: Sound Transit staff will provide an update at today's meeting.

Grand Connection

Update, August 8, 2017: A draft of the Grand Connection Vision document is available for public comment on bellevuegrandconnection.com.

Lake Hills/PSE Poles

No updates to report.

Lattawood Park

Update, July 11, 2017: Staff received 26 applications of which 22 met the basic requirements. Staff is currently finalizing the selection panel which will consist of Arts Commissioner Philip Malkin, artist Norie Sato, and a resident of the Whispering Heights/Collingwood neighborhood. Staff is seeking community representation from the north of the park in the Horizon Heights neighborhood, filled by Philip Malkin, and from south of the park in the Whispering Heights/Collingswood neighborhood, as yet unfilled. The panel is expected to meet once in August to make their finalist selections. Interviews of the finalists have not been scheduled to date.

Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront Expansion

No updates to report.

Night Blooming Donation

Update, August 8, 2017: Staff is working with Artech to develop a contract for the work. Artech will be managing the concrete subcontractor. The original site at the Bellevue Botanical Garden is back under consideration.

Portable Art Collection

No updates to report.

Public Art Collection & Maintenance

No updates to report.

OTHER PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Artspace Affordable Housing Feasibility Study

Update, August 8, 2017: The study will be finalized during the month of August.

Bellevue Creative Edge

No updates to report.

Cultural Compass

No updates to report.

Funding, 2017

No updates to report.

Level Up Bellevue

No updates to report.

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Information

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS AND SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENTS

Below are suggested committee assignments and project leads for 2017. If you have any questions or would like to swap an assignment, please discuss with Chair Paul Manfredi.

2017 Suggested Assignments

Executive committee

- Monthly Arts Commission Meetings, Paul Manfredi lead
- Budget One reporting
- 2017 Annual Meeting

Allocations committee

- Becky Lewis, lead
- Maria Lau Hui, lead on pilot capacity building program
- Carl Wolfeich

Public art group

- 130th Avenue in BelRed, Carl Wolfeich
- Lake Hills, Becky Lewis
- Lattawood Park, Philip Malkin

Planning group

- Artspace Artist Housing Feasibility Study, Philip Malkin
- Creative Edge, Paul Manfredi
- Grand Connection and Wilburton Land Use Study, Maria Lau Hui