

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

September 4, 2018  
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Jackson, Lau Hui, Lewis, Malkin  
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Chairperson Manfredi, Commissioners Gulati, Wolfteich  
STAFF PRESENT: Joshua Heim, Manette Stamm, Department of Planning  
and Community Development  
OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Marioni, artist; Kurt Kiefer, Sound Transit  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Commissioner Malkin who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Chairperson Manfredi and Commissioners Gulati and Wolfteich, all of whom were excused.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Lewis. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Jackson and the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the July 10, 2018, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Lewis. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Lau Hui and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Devon Powell and Ms. Brittan Drake introduced themselves as being with Meydenbauer Center Theater. Mr. Drake noted that Ms. Powell is the booking manager and that he serves as the production manager. He added that steps are being taken to curate the theater lobby as an art gallery, possibly showcasing some local artists.

Ms. Drake said the theater is looking at presenting a couple of its own works during the coming season.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Malkin, Mr. Drake said the intent relative to displaying art was to begin with using the wall space in the upstairs mezzanine lobby for from eight to ten works. He said he was open to including sculptural works as well.

Ms. Salyna Gracie introduced herself as the operations manager for the new Brio Art Center, a John Su Development project that is currently under construction and set to open in mid- to

late-2019. She said it will be a multifaceted venue that will include art making space and art studios as well as a gallery exhibition space. She voiced her interest in making connections to learn what the Bellevue artist community needs relative to resources in moving toward finalizing plans for the 8000-square-foot venue.

#### 4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### A. StART East Link Rail Art Presentation

Kurt Kiefer with StART allowed that Sound Transit is actively working on the East Link project. The South Bellevue station is well underway, and the 112th Avenue SE corridor is under construction as well. The tunnel near the East Main station is nearly complete. The alignment after City Hall crosses over I-405 before turning north to run along the Eastside Rail Corridor and then turning east again to pass through the Spring District moving toward 130th Avenue NE in Bel-Red and Overlake Village in Redmond and the Redmond Technology Center.

With regard to the Downtown station art project, Mr. Kiefer reminded the Commission that originally there were two artists assigned to the project, Paul Marioni and the Ball-Nogues Studio team. He noted that Mr. Marioni has been focused on the north platform wall and the floor for the east entrance. The Ball-Nogues project for the portal wall grew increasingly complicated as the design work continued, and the decision was made by StART not to pursue it any further. As an alternate, Mr. Marioni's contract was extended, allowing him to expand on his existing project to the eastbound platform and the portal wall.

Mr. Marioni said he initially traveled to Los Angeles to meet with the Ball-Nogues team, not to collaborate with them but to gain an understanding of their project. He said now that their project has not worked out, his focus is on expanding his artwork to complete the station. He shared with the Commission his *Woven Light* design for the north-facing wall utilizing individual panels to cover the space ten feet high and 154 feet long. Unlike wall paper, the weave pattern will change throughout the length of the platform. For the east entrance, the terrazzo floor as proposed includes a simple design in gray involving concentric ripples moving outward, much like dropping a pebble into a pond. Most terrazzo floors are highly polished, but he said the design he has proposed is for more of a semi-gloss finish to avoid creating a glare. The simple and fundamental design will appeal to a broad swath of the public. He said he was seeking to avoid creating a standalone artwork like a sculpture or a painting on a wall. He said he prefers to create an environment that is welcoming. Many do not have a vocabulary for art and thus immediately turn it off in their minds and do not even look at it. There will be those who will not see anything but a nice floor and a wall of woven light.

Continuing, Mr. Marioni said *Woven Light* will work in any light situation, bright or cloudy. Each section will catch the available light like a magnifying glass and project it onto the south wall. The concept is simple. The window over the tunnel will tie the works together by including a bit of the woven wall with some clear glass space between *Light Rain*. He said he has asked to include two cedar trees in planters outside of the station, first in remembrance of Bellevue's past as a cedar forest, and second as a commitment to an environmental future for the citizens of Bellevue. The fundamental concept is moving light, which will bring the artwork to life.

Commissioner Malkin asked about general maintenance of the glass. Mr. Marioni said the insulated units will involve a quarter inch glass surfaces that will be relatively easy to clean. He said in all there will be 114 panels and added that he would make a few extra in the event any get broken. For safety reasons, the panes will need to be either laminated or tempered.

Commissioner Lau Hui asked if the panels could be dispersed up the stairs to provide for some connectivity between the entry and the platform. Mr. Marioni said the north wall initially had a \$300,000 budget. The fabricator came in with an estimate of \$297,000. Mr. Kiefer stated that while it would be technically feasible to make the connection, there are budget constraints. Mr. Marioni added that another glitch is the fact that the glass, all of which has been purchased, was manufactured by Spectrum Glass in Woodinville, which has since gone out of business. No one else makes the same glass. The rain drops in the *Light Rain* work will use glass from the same fabricator, and each drop will be made by hand. He said he was confident all of the work can be done within budget.

Commissioner Jackson asked Mr. Marioni why he chose not to use color in the panels. His response was that clear glass is both timeless and elegant. As tastes change over time, the panels will continue to be relevant. The project is all about capturing and moving light through the artwork. Glass is the only materials that captures and manipulates light.

#### B. 2018 Bellwether Program Update

Mr. Heim reminded the Commissioners that Bellwether would officially begin on September 14 and would run for only ten days through September 23. The event includes a focus on the Grand Connection and engaging those who live and work in the downtown. The opening party on September 14 will be at the Bellevue Arts Museum and will include no host drinks and a food truck. The first two performance art-based experiences will be at Compass Plaza on September 15 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., followed the same evening with a big event with Guillermo Gómez-Peña at the Bellevue Arts Museum; the artist will conduct a four-hour workshop on his methods the following day, September 16. The following weekend there will be another set of performance art-related projects in Downtown Park, and there will be a poetry reading as well at the Bellevue Arts Museum.

While the event has typically been a sculpture show utilizing city properties, including city hall and Downtown Park, the focus has shifted to include property owners and facilities along the Grand Connection to host Bellwether projects. The Bellevue Arts Museum is a good example of a community partner embracing the program as both a partner and a host. The entire second floor of the museum will be open and the entire museum will be free from September 14 through September 23.

Mr. Heim said two reviews had already come out, one in *City Arts* magazine and one in *Crosscut*. A second article will run in *Crosscut* after the first week of the event. Additionally, Bellwether has its own website at [www.bellwetherartsweek.org](http://www.bellwetherartsweek.org), and the event has both a marketing and social media strategy. The Bellevue Downtown Association is partnering with the event and will serve in real time as social media brand ambassadors on the streets. He shared with the Commissioners a social media tool kit developed by the consultants for the Commissioners to use in promoting Bellwether as arts leaders in the city, and said a listserv has been created to help spread the word via email.

#### C. King County 4Culture Cultural Health Study

Mr. Heim said the new executive director for 4Culture is Brian Carter, a Bellevue resident and one of the Allocations Committee members. The idea behind the cultural health study is to determine the cultural health throughout the county, with assessments to be done by city, beginning with the largest city in each of the King County Council districts. Bellevue is one of the cities will be first up. A listening session has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on September 25 at the Crossroads Community Center. The city will serve as a partner and the host, but

4Culture will ask all of the questions. One anticipated outcome is a resource for funders throughout the region.

Commissioner Malkin asked if the work done by Arts Space could be made available to 4Culture as an asset to the study. Mr. Heim said that certainly could be done along with the Creative Edge research.

Mr. Heim said he wanted a member of the Commission to sit in on the listening session. Commissioner Lau Hui volunteered to attend.

## 6. REPORTS

- A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports – As Noted
- B. Project Updates from Staff

Mr. Heim reported that the Grand Connection consultants will be in town September 10 and 11 hosting a series of stakeholder workshops. An arts and culture workshop has been slated for September 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. that will focus on cultural identity related to the cultural corridor. Specific sites for significant art installations will be identified and written into the design guidelines. Folks from the Bellevue Arts Museum will participate along with representatives of the Eastside Heritage Center, 4Culture and the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network. Commissioner Lau Hui volunteered to attend as a representative of the Commission.

Mr. Heim informed the Commissioners that *Life Cycle* has been installed at Chism Beach Park.

The Commissioners were told that staff would be mailing out on September 5 the first email to all grantees announcing the grant cycle.

The [www.bellevuewa.gov/arts](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts) website has been completed updated. It includes access to the Creative Edge final reports, the Grand Connection project, and the Cultural Compass. The grants page has been updated to include the application process, including the application requirements and guidelines. A link has also been added to the cultural resources map.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

- A. Written Correspondence

Mr. Heim said he would send out new dates for the boards and commissions diversity training sessions.

- B. Information
  - i. Committees – As Noted

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Malkin adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.