

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

January 20, 2015
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Jackson, Commissioners Lewis, Ludeña, Madan, Malkin, Manfredi, Wolfteich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Scott MacDonald, Mike McCormick-Huentelman, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Pawson, Joel Peterson, Lynn Conrad Marvet, Bellevue Arts Museum

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairperson Jackson who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Manfredi, who arrived at 4:34 p.m., Commissioner Wolfteich, who arrived at 4:51 p.m., and Commissioner Ludeña, who was excused.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Lewis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Malkin and it carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the December 2, 2014, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Lewis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Madan and it carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Neighborhood Outreach Division Programs and Services

Neighborhood Outreach manager Mike McCormick-Huentelman provided the Commission with an overview of the services and programs provided by the Neighborhood Outreach Division. He said while each is different, all neighborhoods desire safety, natural elements and community connections. The city's 16 neighborhood areas roughly coincide with the subareas in the Comprehensive Plan.

The neighborhood leadership gatherings, which began two years ago, bring leaders together from all around the city to voice their concerns and priorities. The process has also aided the city in learning how best to communicate with the neighborhoods and to build up and revitalize the neighborhood associations. Neighborhood character and identity has been highlighted by the leaders as being very important.

Neighborhood Outreach focuses on neighborhood improvement and building community. Neighborhood improvement can involve small projects such as trails, and building community can involve block parties and the cultural conversations.

Improved city responsiveness is addressed in several different ways. Neighborhood Outreach staff divided up the 16 neighborhood areas among themselves so that each staff person has three or four neighborhood areas for which they serve as liaison between the city and the communities. The liaisons often seek to connect neighborhoods with other neighborhoods to address common issues. Neighborhood Outreach also runs Mini City Hall in Crossroads Shopping Center. Among other things Mini City Hall fields a lot of community requests and provides information and referral services in nine languages.

The revitalization of neighborhood and community associations is a primary area for Neighborhood Outreach. The division is working with 122 groups that are in different states of organization. The focus is on helping them develop in a ways that are sustainable. An organizing guide is available online, and classes are offered that support the growth of leadership skills.

Neighborhood Outreach plays host for the Cultural Conversations Program. The program began as a women's group and holds well-attended conversation events on significant topics approximately every other month. The program has been so successful that a pilot program for conversations and connections open to both men and women will kick off on February 4. The Neighborhood Link Program hosts and supports the block party celebrations; provides help with community service; partners with Jubilee Day of Caring and Sharing; supports neighborhood green cleans; and partners with the police in supporting block watch programs.

There are two programs in the neighborhood improvement category. The Neighborhood Enhancement Program, which was discontinued two years ago, has again been funded by the City Council. The program brings community-directed capital improvement projects in the neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Match Program matches up to \$10,000 per project in cash, labor, and gift-in-kind for small community projects ranging from landscaping to gateway signage and local amenities.

Mr. McCormick-Huentelman said Neighborhood Outreach also offers classes, workshops and forums. The next leadership gathering is slated for February 26 and will focus on the question of whether Bellevue's economy and neighborhoods can prosper together. The city's new economic development director will participate in the event. The Bellevue Essentials class, which is for emerging leaders, is for anyone wanting to learn the nuts and bolts of city government. Neighborhood workshops are conducted on request on a variety of topics.

At the heart of everything done by Neighborhood Outreach is people and the fact that their engagement is what makes Bellevue such a great place to live.

Neighborhood News is a monthly publication that is put out by the Neighborhood Outreach division. It is available in hard copy and electronically. The publication includes a one-page summary of all meetings happening in the city for a given month, including agendas. It also highlights events happening in the community.

Answering a question asked by Ms. Byrne, Mr. McCormick-Huentelman said in the fall of 2014 the leadership gathering centered on the topic of neighborhood character, what to preserve as things change. Particular attention was given to how to do better neighborhood planning that allows for distinctive neighborhood character. The needs in Lake Hills are different from the needs in Newport Shores, and part of the conversation has been taken up by the City Council and the question they have debated is whether or not there should be a chapter in the Comprehensive Plan that speaks directly to neighborhoods, and the notion of planning processes that will allow for uniqueness among the various neighborhoods. If a neighborhood element is included, the process of subarea planning will morph into neighborhood planning. Other issues neighborhoods are concerned about currently are mega-homes and single-room rentals.

Commissioner Malkin asked if the Neighborhood Enhancement Program and the Neighborhood Public Art Program are partnered in any way. Ms. Byrne said the original thinking was that the art program would follow the Neighborhood Enhancement Program as it worked its way around the city. The Neighborhood Enhancement Program was discontinued, but now that it has been funded again a conversation will need to be had about whether the two programs should have some tie-in.

B. Proposal to Sponsor Louis Kahn Special Exhibit At BAM

Bellevue Arts Museum (BAM) Executive Director Linda Pawson introduced Joel Peterson, president of the Board of Trustees, and Lynn Conrad Marvet, director of development.

Ms. Pawson explained that *Louis Kahn, The Power of Architecture*, is an exhibit that was designed by the Vitra Design Museum in Germany. It is currently on a world tour. Of the eight planned stops, BAM has the opportunity to be one of only two stops in the United States. Louis Kahn is an American architect who is one of the major architects of the time. His work includes housing designs but he is best known for his monumental buildings, including the National Assembly Building in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Mr. Kahn was also involved in urban planning studies and was an artist.

Ms. Pawson described how the exhibit is organized and highlighted some its key features. She said Because education is such a large part of what BAM does, consideration is being given to bringing a symposium to Bellevue in association with the Kahn exhibition to focus on the past, present and future vision for Bellevue.

Ms. Pawson said BAM set attendance records over the past year. Those who visit find themselves surprised and engaged with the exhibitions. She described the unique role BAM plays in the Northwest in helping people learn about design, from their iconic building to the many, increasingly well-received exhibits focused on design they have presented over the years.

Ms. Pawson said BAM has been working with a number of design leaders in the community. Rich Smith, chair and CEO of Mulvany/G2, is on the museum's board of trustees and has been working on identifying how to engage the community relative to the Kahn show. Kemper Development Company and the Freeman family have shown a commitment to the community and have been very supportive of the museum throughout the years.

Mr. Peterson said he lives in the downtown and spends a lot of time at the museum. Downtown Bellevue is a dynamic place and is ever evolving. The downtown as a community is getting more connected, but more communication is needed around the evolution of the city. Urban design, building design and interior design are all elements of what the future holds for the downtown, and BAM is positioned to be at the center of the conversation.

Ms. Pawson said the Kahn exhibition provides BAM with the opportunity to be associated with a world class exhibition. The Vitra Design Museum has partnered with BAM in the past in bringing shows to town, and the Kahn exhibition represents the opportunity to lead part of the conversation

about the future of Bellevue. The list of potential partners includes the University of Washington and University of Oregon departments of architecture and urban planning; leading architectural firms; the cities of Bellevue and Seattle; and Sound Transit.

Ms. Pawson said that at the direction of the BAM finance committee and Board of Trustees she is engaged in talking to groups about supporting the exhibition before a commitment is made to bring it to the museum. To date there have been meetings with the CEOs of various organizations, marketing folks, the Seattle Architecture Foundation, and others. Efforts are under way to identify \$100,000 in sponsorships before signing a contractual agreement with Vitra Design Museum to host the exhibition in 2016.

Commissioner Wolfeich asked if other cities in the United States are vying for the opportunity to host the exhibit. Ms. Pawson said the only other competitor for the slot that is open is in Japan. Funding is the only element needed to secure the exhibit for Bellevue.

Commissioner Manfredi asked what the symposium would entail. Ms. Pawson explained that it would be part of the educational outreach and would probably require a \$15,000 to \$20,000 investment and cover one or two days. If Bellevue becomes the only United States venue, it would be good to extend invitations to urban planners and architects from outside of the area as well.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Manfredi, Ms. Pawson said Mr. Kahn's work is referenced in most university architectural study programs. While there are no Kahn buildings in the Northwest, the concepts that were important to Mr. Kahn are the concepts the schools all teach. Mr. Peterson added that many of Mr. Kahn's plans were never built because he was so far ahead of his time. His concepts relative to urban planning and structural design is a common denominator at architectural colleges. Ms. Conrad Marvet noted that Mr. Kahn's concepts and works are marked by innovation, the very thing the Puget Sound region is noted for, which makes his work relevant on many levels.

Ms. Pawson thanked the Commission for its continued support and said BAM looks forward to continuing the relationship.

A motion to support the Louis Kahn exhibition for \$10,000 was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

Ms. Byrne said if the motion carries the funds will come from the Public Art Program. BAM receives close to \$17,000 annually in organizational funding from the Eastside Arts Partnership funding program through the General Fund. The Arts Program has a long history of partnering with the museum on other projects such as the children's tile project that placed thousands of tiles along NE8th from 124th Ave. NE to 156th Ave. NE, and the Lamp Post project which places temporary art along sections of the Pedestrian Corridor during the summer.

Commissioner Malkin said he liked the idea of the Commission participating on the Kahn exhibit planning team. The symposium may offer a good opportunity to explore topics like the arts district, the Meydenbauer project and the art walk. He noted his support for the motion.

Commissioner Manfredi said he would support being very ambitious when it comes to outreach efforts. The exhibit could be seen as being for specialists only, thus the outreach should include a serious conversation as part of the symposium about where Bellevue is headed.

Chair Jackson supported the motion. She noted, however, that the exhibit will largely be academic and will appeal to a somewhat limited audience.

Commissioner Madan said he looked forward to having the exhibit in Bellevue. BAM is masterful at merging multiple exhibits and it is very likely that those who go just to see the Kahn exhibit will find themselves exposed to other exhibits as well. He said several years ago in visited an architecture exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and was fascinated to see the connection between art and architecture. The exposure the Kahn exhibit will bring to the public will serve to be very powerful.

Commissioner Lewis said she favored bringing the exhibit to BAM because it will serve to inspire the city to think about other things.

The motion carried unanimously.

There was agreement that with the funding the Commission should have participation in the planning for all educational activities, including the symposium, and that the city's logo should appear in marketing materials recognition of its sponsorship.

C. 2015 Work Plan Overview

Ms. Byrne called attention to the project matrix and explained that for each project there is an explanation of the reason behind it, the priorities addressed, and the specific Budget One outcomes addressed. She briefly described several of the projects.

In response to Ms. Byrne's comments about Arts Program use of social media, Chair Jackson commented that while Twitter is effective for self-promoters who want to be regularly in front of their audience, it is not the best fit with the mission of the Arts Program.

Commissioner Madan said there are certain things for which the social media tools work very well. Twitter works well for those with a large following who want to keep them well-fed with information. Those who just need a presence, who want to share information, and who want to be findable when someone comes looking for them, Facebook works very well.

Ms. Byrne said a second printing of the ArtMap was run and those copies are practically gone already. A third printing is in the works. In response to a Commissioner question, she said the map is also available on the Arts Program website as a PDF.

Ms. Byrne said the Cultural Access Fund is a proposal to have groups of counties partner together in tax themselves to create a revenue stream for the arts. It was presented as a bill to the state legislature in 2014 and did not pass. It is expected that the bill will resurface in 2015. Commissioner Malkin said it has not been determined yet if the revenue stream should be a sales tax or a property tax, though the leaning is toward the former. The potential for King County alone is \$51.4 million. The funds would go to public schools, cultural access programs, regional cultural organizations, and community based cultural organizations. Ms. Byrne said it is yet to be determined how the funds would be administered. The obvious choice for King County would be 4Culture. Approval at the legislative level is needed before anything can be done. There is a strong argument to be made for supporting the full-county effort; it has a much better chance of being approved, and Eastside groups would benefit.

Ms. Byrne suggested placing the topic on the agenda for the next meeting by which time more information will be available.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS

A. Confirming Next Meeting is Rescheduled for February 10

There was consensus to schedule the next Arts Commission meeting for February 10.

- B. Joint Board and Commission Meeting to Review Comprehensive Plan Update

A majority of the Commissioners indicated their intent to attend the meeting.

6. REPORTS

- A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports - As Noted
- B. Project Updates from Staff
 - i. City/PACE Collaboration - As Noted
 - ii. Maintenance Activity

Ms. Byrne reported that some repair work is being done on *Arc With Four Forms*, the kinetic sculpture located in the northeast corner of Downtown Park.

Ms. Byrne informed the Commissioners that the annual Arts Day in Olympia is scheduled for March 4. On that day, arts representatives from all around the state converge on Olympia and talk about the arts with the legislators from their districts.

Commissioner Wolfeich confirmed that he would be attending the presentation on the Tateuchi Center to the Downtown Residents Association on January 27 at the library.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

- A. Written Correspondence - As Noted
- B. Information - As Noted
 - i. Future Agenda Items
 - ii. Committees

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.