

# BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION



Music + Light concert by Sustain Music at Resonance at SOMA Towers on February 6th, 2020. Christina Medawar on flute, Haeyoon Shin on cello, Carlin Ma on piano, and light engineer Richard Schultz. This was one of the last public events in Bellevue before the Governor's stay-at-home order was put in place.



Community Development

July 7, 2020  
ZOOM 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



# Agenda

Tuesday, July 7, 2020  
Meeting: 4:30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

Bellevue Arts Commission

Commission Staff Contact: 425.452.4852

The City of Bellevue Arts Commission meeting for July 7, 2020 will be conducted virtually via Zoom Webinar. The public can access the meeting here, <https://cityofbellevue.zoom.us/j/93714484396> using Password: **594767** or by connecting to the Zoom Webinar using Webinar ID: **937 1448 4396** and Password: **594767**. For those members of the public unable to access internet services, a telephone option will be made available to listen to the proceedings. The phone number to access the meeting is (253) 215 8782, Webinar ID: **937 1448 4396** and Password: **594767**.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 4:30pm  
Vice Chair Malkin will call the meeting to order.
2. **COMMISSION ELECTION** 4:30 – 4:40  
Commissioners will either nominate themselves or another member for both the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Commissioners are free to make statements on behalf of themselves or another commissioner. Current Vice Chair Malkin will call for a vote and voting by the full commission will be tallied. Elected commissioners will assume their new titles immediately.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES** 4:40 – 4:45
  - A. Chair will ask for approval of the agenda.
  - B. Chair will ask for approval of the March 2020 regular meeting minutes.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 4:45 – 4:50  
There will be no opportunity for oral communications at this meeting. All written comments received prior to 3 p.m. on July 7, 2020 will be read or summarized into the record at the meeting. If you wish to provide written comment to the Arts Commission, please email [mstamm@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mstamm@bellevuewa.gov) with the subject line "Written Communications – July 7".
4. **ACTION, DISCUSSION, AND INFORMATION ITEMS**
  - A. COVID-19 and the local arts community 4:50 – 5:35
  - B. Portable Art Collection Call 5:35 – 5:55
  - C. Eastside Artist Roster 5:55 – 6:15
5. **COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS** 6:15 – 6:20
6. **REPORTS** 6:20 – 6:30
  - A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports
  - B. Project Updates from Staff
8. **ADJOURNMENT** 6:30pm  
Chair will adjourn the meeting.

Bellevue Arts Commission meetings are wheelchair accessible. Captioning, American Sign Language (ASL), or language interpreters are available upon request. Please phone at least 48 hours in advance

425-452-6168 (VOICE) for ADA accommodations. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, dial 711 (TR). Assisted listening devices are available upon request. Please contact the Arts Program at least two days in advance [smacdonlad@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:smacdonlad@bellevuewa.gov) ▪ 425-452-4852 (Voice) ▪ Please dial 711 for assistance for the hearing impaired.

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### **ARTS COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Philip Malkin, Vice Chair

Lydia Aldredge

Ashmita Gulati

Maria Lau Hui

Rebecca Lewis

Carl Wolfteich

Vacant seat

### **COUNCIL LIAISON**

John Stokes

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

Scott MacDonald, Arts Community Manager, 425-452-4852

Manette Stamm, Arts Program Assistant, 425-452-4064



Community Development

# Minutes

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

March 3, 2020  
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Manfredi, Commissioners Aldredge, Gulati, Lau Hui, Lewis, Malkin

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Wolfteich

STAFF PRESENT: Scott MacDonald, Manette Stamm, Department of Planning and Community Development; Jesse Canedo, Economic Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Manfredi who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Lau Hui and Wolfteich, both of whom were excused.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

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

B. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the February 11, 2020, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Aldredge. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Malkin and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Bellwether 2020 Creative Brief

Ben Beres with SuttonBeresCuller noted that while the process is in its early stages, a good team is being developed. He said leaning on what the Commission has said, more Bellevue people will be involved. The theme for the first of the three-year pilot was “Connections,” which focused on how artists engage in the region. The second year the theme was “Roots” and was focused on how the arts ecosystem thrives. For 2020 the theme will be “Growth” and will zero in on how art is nourished and sustained given the city’s rapid growth. For the second year Meydenbauer Center will serve as a venue, though the music event will be held on Friday night rather than Saturday night to improve attendance. There will be a big push to

highlight that element, possibly including a march to grab the attention of people. Compass Plaza will be revisited again as a venue, possibly with some sculptures but certainly with poetry in the marquee. The programming at the Bellevue Arts Museum will be much the same as in 2019 with the auditorium, the main foyer and the side area for Today's Special, which proved to be very popular. There is talk of extending the event to last longer than ten days, particularly at the Bellevue Arts Museum. Downtown Park will also be reengaged for one of the weekends, and possibly Meydenbauer Bay Park, for performances. There is also the potential to use a transit center building for visual arts.

Continuing, Mr. Beres said the list of curators includes Molly Sides, a performer who has done a lot of choreography. She will do the opening night celebration at the Bellevue Arts Museum and the Friday evening performance at Meydenbauer Center. Megan Stelljes, a glass blower and neon artist, will join other glass artists, including Sarah Blood will co-curate part of the Bellevue Arts Museum exhibits. Maja Petric, a Bellevue-based artist who has done a lot of tech art, will serve as one of the main curators with a focus on Eastside artists. Anna Mlasowsky will have one of the main floors at the Bellevue Arts Museum. The While Supplies Last event from 2019 will be reprised with Mo Quick putting together a craft fair with zines, silk screens and acoustic music in collaboration with Bellevue College. Priscilla Dober will return with some sculpture and interactive style work. Cannupa Hanska Luger will be tapped for one of the Downtown Park performances. The conversations event, which in 2019 was with John Boylan, will be continued with Gary Faigin moderating around the Growth theme.

Commissioner Aldredge asked if there will be a call put out to artists. Mr. Beres said that will be up to the curators. Commissioner Aldredge said she would like to see the process made somewhat democratic with a public call, avoiding having curators tap their friends or those within their own networks. She said that is what it felt like happened in 2019.

Commissioner Gulati asked how many artists are included annually. Mr. Beres said the first year there were 66 total artists, and in 2019 there were close to 50.

Commissioner Aldredge allowed that for some elements, such as performances, it might be harder to seek artists by application, but said for the traditional art components the process would make things easier. She urged Mr. Beres to talk with the curators about identifying ways to make some components more accessible to a larger audience.

Chair Manfredi stated that the curators did not in either 2018 or 2019 gather a large number of possible artists and share the list with the Commission. He asked if that approach could be used in 2020. Mr. Beres said it could be done, though that would involve a lot of cooks in the kitchen. He said SuttonBeresCuller was tasked from the beginning with putting together a cutting-edge contemporary show. He said he sat on a panel in 2019 to sift through the 700 applicants for the Bellevue Arts Fair, and nearly all of them offered crafts, water colors and other paintings that do not necessarily align with what SuttonBeresCuller was hired to do.

Commissioner Gulati pointed out that 4Culture regularly advertises for artists on its website and on social media. She suggested an ad could be put out on their website and on the city's social media sites calling for different forms of art for Bellwether. Commissioner Aldredge agreed and said if there is a bent toward more contemporary works, that could be made clear in the call.

Arts Program Coordinator Scott MacDonald reminded the Commissioners that there is a very tight schedule. He said the curators will have the next four weeks to get their artist rosters submitted. There is a clear need to be realistic about the next steps, especially since artists would need a meaningful amount of time to respond to a call. Even getting on 4Culture's



website can take up to three days. The fact of the matter is that every day counts going forward. If there is to be a general call, it should be for specific opportunities. Having an artist address the entire pedestrian corridor from the transit center to the Bellevue Arts Museum would conceivably be a big project with a separate timeline, but a call for artists to work, for example, in Downtown Park would put the whole Downtown Park element on hold. The schedule has been crafted in a way that will push the program to a higher and more professional level, and any delays across the program would not be good. With the focus on trying to make meaningful work people will want to come and see, a call, especially for visual artists, would be problematic for the curatorial model and the timeline. It might be easier to get performance artists onboard.

Mr. Beres said Ms. Sides has plans to collaborate with some Eastside organizations, the result of which will be more Bellevue artists in the 2020 Bellwether. Every curator has been given notice to focus on local artists.

Councilmember Stokes said it sounded to him like the idea of initiating a call had been previously discussed. If the approach is something the Commission wants to explore, it should make a commitment to do so after the 2020 Bellwether, which ends the three-year pilot project.

Commissioner Aldredge suggested that Mo Quick's pop-ups featuring affordable works from young artists seems like a perfect place to encourage submissions and participation from local artists. Mr. Beres said he would plan for that. Commissioner Aldredge added that as a visual public artist she had never had the luxury of having more than five months to develop a design and create a work. Bellwether is six months out and allowing a month for a call for artists would will given whoever is selected five months. Mr. MacDonald clarified that artists do not have until September to come up with a proposal, they only have until May 15. Commissioner Aldredge said that deadline is for submitting concepts. Artists would still have sufficient time to make their works.

Mr. Beres left the meeting.

Commissioner Aldredge said if a call to artists is to be put out, it would need to be done within about a week. She said she would like to direct staff to do a 4Culture call next week for the components curated by Mo Quick and the glass work. Commissioner Gulati agreed and said she would like to see the call include trying to get visual artists to create works to locate in the transit center space. Economic Development Strategist Jesse Canedo said he would relay that thought to Mr. Beres, but he urged the Commissioners to temper their expectations and the city's role in making a call. The city as a public agency must be very careful about how calls are structured to avoid quirky issues around art as expression and the like.

Ms. Stamm agreed a call would work well with Mo Quick's element because the schedule would more easily allow for it. She said the city will be signing agreements with the curators but stressed that will not happen until later. Under the agreement with SuttonBeresCuller, putting out a call until agreements are in place with the curators would be jumping ship.

In terms of a path forward, Mr. MacDonald agreed with the suggestion relative to Mo Quick's part of Bellwether. He said that element involves more of a fair and does not necessarily require proposals. He also agreed that the call could be broadened to allow any of the curators to review the submittals, allowing a curator to fit something in if they so choose. The concern is in holding up the whole body of work and avoiding dictating to curators the types of works wanted. There must be clarity as to the rolls of the city, the creative director and the curators. Any call to artists would be for a body of work rather than proposals. A general call, with a

subsection of it specific to Bellwether, would help to achieve multiple goals, including the building of an artist roster.

Commissioner Aldredge suggested the draft of the call should be shared with the Commissioners before it goes out. Ms. Stamm pointed out the need to avoid quorum issues by having only the subcommittee conduct any reviews.

Mr. MacDonald clarified that 4Culture has a calls page to which organizations can submit. They have email lists for sending calls out but they do no other marketing. Calls by the city posted by 4Culture are typically posted to Facebook, Instagram and other venues, including the city of Seattle.

Commissioner Malkin recommended using the email lists covering the entire Eastside when putting out the call. Mr. MacDonald said the city and specifically the Department of Economic Development enjoys ongoing partnerships on the creative economy side of things with Redmond and Kirkland. He proposed using that structure. Commissioner Aldredge argued the call should go out more widely than that, particularly since many artists live in rural areas where it is more affordable. She suggested focusing the call on all of the east side of King County. Mr. MacDonald pointed out that even with a targeted release, there likely will be responses from artists outside of the targeted area, including artists from Seattle and the island counties.

Mr. Canedo proposed targeting the Startup 425 partners, which includes Redmond, Kirkland, Renton and Issaquah. Mr. MacDonald said that would work. There was agreement on the part of the Commissioners to take that approach.

A motion to recommend the acceptance of the Creative Brief as presented from Creative Directors SuttonBeresCuller for Bellwether 2020 was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aldredge and the motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Andy Arkley Artwork Opportunity

Ms. Stamm explained that artist Andy Arkley participated in Bellwether 2018. He recently approached the city with an opportunity for the city to relocate a piece currently on display at the Bellevue Arts Museum. The proposal was to relocate *Chromamotion* at City Hall. The artist is willing to reconfigure the work if necessary, which would make it easier to find a suitable wall at City Hall. An analysis of where it could be sited at City Hall are under way. The office of Finance and Asset Management will also need to be involved. Once that work is done, staff will return to the Commission with options for either hosting the work temporarily or purchasing it and adding it to the city's permanent portable collection.

Commissioner Gulati asked where funding to purchase the piece would come from. Ms. Stamm said there is a budget for the acquisition of portable artwork. Mr. MacDonald explained that the portable art collection began in 2015 as a subset of the broader public art collection. Under the program the city has purchased three artworks, including the dragon panels that were created for Bellwether and displayed at City Hall, and two paintings that hang in the City Manager's Office and adjacent to Council meeting rooms. The intent for the future is to set up another call and establish a panel in line with Commission policies to go through the roster and make a selection for purchase.

Commissioner Aldredge said the portable collection owned by the Port of Seattle includes works of various dollar values. The Port commissioners can pick from the collection works they want displayed in their offices. It certainly is a way to get more art in the public purview.

Mr. MacDonald agreed it is a very valuable tool and an excellent way to engage with artists at different levels of their careers.

Councilmember Stokes noted that the Council had recently received a presentation on the creative economy. A number of Councilmembers had positive and kind things to say about having more public art in the city. Given the upcoming budget cycle, if the Commission wants to see something considered it is the right time to talk about it and work with the staff ahead of bringing forward a budget proposal. The time seems right in the context of the change that is rapidly coming to the city. There are cities around the country the size of Bellevue that are doing amazing things with public art, and there is a growing appetite for art in Bellevue. It is becoming evident that the arts contribute to the economy rather than draw on the economy.

Commissioner Aldredge suggested the time was right for the Commission to create a committee to develop a proposal for the Council.

Councilmember Stokes said the integration of the arts into economic development is intended to be a part of making Bellevue into a place people want to be and visit. Bellevue is very much a part of the tech scene, and art is very much a part of that. It is known that when people visit Bellevue, they do not find places for music and the arts.

Commissioner Gulati pointed out that funding for the arts program in Bellevue has not increased at all over the last 20 years. Councilmember Stokes said the same is true of human services. Both the Human Services Commission and the Arts Commission are charged with determining how those funds should be allocated. With both of those bodies, where 100 applications are submitted but only a handful of them get funded, clearly something is not right with the budget.

Commissioner Aldredge said the opportunity should be taken to seek an expansion to the arts budget. Some of the funds may be restricted to certain things depending on what the Council wants to see happen. A committee should be formed to draft some options for things that need to be funded.

Councilmember Stokes allowed that public concern about safety and connectivity led to the passage of the transportation levy. To a great extent, the process was driven by the work of the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Malkin said the Commission has the data to make a strong case for increasing funding for the arts in Bellevue. He said one of the ideas the Commission has explored is the notion of having a continued funding source rather than an annual budget allocation, such as a percentage like the hotel tax, a building tax, or something like the one percent for arts program in King County. Funds generated in those ways could be used for grants to arts organizations as well as for art in public places and generally building more of an arts community. Councilmember Stokes agreed and pointed out there are a lot of pieces that are tied together, like the Grand Connection and the Eastrail corridor. Recently Mayor Robertson gave a presentation at the Bellevue Arts Museum about the Grand Connection, which has a strong connection to the arts. Feedback on the sculpture piece for the Grand Connection has been very positive. There is a growing sense that the arts are important, and that Bellevue needs to have more culture and art overall.

Commissioner Malkin asked if a proposal from the Commission presented to the Council through the staff would be received positively. Councilmember Stokes said he could not speak for the entire Council but suggested that it might be. There is currently at least an opportunity to talk about the subject and how it might be brought about. The time certainly is right to figure out a path.

### C. Topics of Interest and Committee Assignments

Ms. Stamm said she had received feedback from Commissioners Lau Hui and Wolfteich regarding the committees on which they would like to serve. She said Commissioner Wolfteich was willing to be assigned to the allocations committee, while Commissioner Lau Hui expressed an interest in working on the Power Up program, and said she also was interested in exploring a percent for the arts and admission tax structure by serving on the budget committee.

Commissioner Aldredge volunteered to serve on the allocations committee as well, as did Commissioner Lewis.

Ms. Stamm clarified that nowhere in the Commission's bylaws does it state that the Commission is to be involved in the budget process. The work to explore a percent for the arts and/or an admissions tax will be aspirational and not a part of the budget process.

Commissioner Gulati volunteered to work on building a roster of Bellevue artists.

Commissioner Aldredge volunteered to work on Bellwether 2020.

Commissioners Malkin and Gulati asked to have their names added to exploring resuscitating the Artspace notion.

Chair Manfredi suggested Commissioner Gulati should also be involved with the art festival conversation. She agreed to be included on that committee.

Commissioner Aldredge said there is going to be a big arts crafting headlined by the Bellevue Arts Museum in 2021 that will be different from their existing arts festival. Mr. Canedo said the Commission could still have a discussion with the Bellevue Downtown Association about the traditional arts fair, particularly around re-siting some of the elements that have had to move due to development.

Commissioner Gulati pointed out that historically there were three arts fairs in Bellevue, the Bellevue Arts Museum arts fair, the Bellevue Arts Festival sited in the Cost Plus World Market parking lot, and the NE 6th fair put on by the Bellevue Downtown Association which has expanded into the adjacent church area, though that site is set for redevelopment in the fall. Redevelopment of the Cost Plus site triggered the loss of the Bellevue Arts Festival.

Mr. Canedo said the Bellevue Downtown Association is discussing alternative locations to use once redevelopment of the church parking lot gets under way. He said his office would work with the Bellevue Downtown Association and the Commission in charting a course forward. He noted that by the spring of 2021 the gateway project for Downtown Park will be completed and there may be some opportunity to use some of that new plaza space for at least part of an arts fair.

Commissioner Lewis volunteered to work with Commissioner Gulati on the arts festival committee.

Commissioner Malkin said he would work with Commissioner Gulati on the roster of artists committee.

There was agreement to ask Commissioner Lau Hui to serve on the Bellwether 2020 committee.

Commissioner Malkin agreed to serve on the arts education committee but said he did not want to be the sole member or the lead. There was agreement to ask Commissioners Lau Hui and Wolfteich to serve on the committee. Councilmember Stokes added that he is serving as Council liaison to the Bellevue School District and suggested that raising the issue of arts education would be good to add to the discussion.

Commissioner Aldredge volunteered to be included on the budget committee.

Mr. MacDonald said he had gathered from the committees conversation a couple of themes. He said the work of some of the committees would fit until the umbrella heading of how to support local and emerging artists. The portable art collection issue would fit into that category, as would the artist roster. He suggested a single committee should focus on both of those things while also looking at strategies to support visual artists.

Commissioner Malkin suggested that in that light it would make sense to have a committee comprised of himself along with Commissioners Aldredge and Gulati to take up that combined work. He also suggested adding the work of the budget committee. Commissioner Malkin proposed adding to that committee exploring the open house concept.

Chair Manfredi noted no Commissioner had been assigned to the Cultural Compass update. Mr. Canedo said there was as yet no timeframe for that work. The process of interviewing for the arts manager position is ramping up and that person will need a few months on the job before restarting the Cultural Compass update work.

Chair Manfredi said he would be happy to join the arts education and budget committees along with the supporting local artists committee, and Commissioner Lewis said she would join the budget committee.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS – None

6. REPORTS

A. Written Correspondence – As Noted

B. Project Updates from Staff

Ms. Stamm said the work to screen the eight candidates chosen from the 141 applicants for the open position of arts manager would begin next week. That will be followed by interviews. Mr. Canedo said the list of applicants ran the full range from recent college graduates to those who have spent time managing performing arts venues and public art programs for municipalities across the country. Criteria have been developed to guide the screening process to be done by internal staff, including Mr. MacDonald. He said he wanted to see a member of the Commission join the interview panel for the three or four finalists. The schedule calls for conducting the interviews during the month of March and being prepared to make an offer to a candidate by the beginning of April.

Chair Manfredi assigned himself to serve on the interview panel.

Mr. MacDonald reported that the final details of the Lattawood project are being worked out. He said he would have a fuller update for the Commission at the April meeting.

Mr. MacDonald said the public art maintenance call for contractors had closed and that a decision would be made in the next couple of weeks. Concurrently, 4Culture is writing out the

scope of work for some of the larger renovations that need to be addressed, including *Garden of Alternatives* in McCormick Park, and *Ark with Four Forms* in Downtown Park.

With regard to the Downtown Park, Mr. MacDonald said the construction project is close to being completed. The anticipation is that the pavilion project will follow immediately, which if the schedule holds would be have the art done by the end of April or possibly early May.

Commissioner Lewis asked what is happening with the performing arts center. Mr. Canedo confirmed that Ray Cullom has left PACE. The board will be going through an internal process to determine if they should hire someone else or simply have one of the board chairs take on the project more directly. Currently, chair of the board Eric Stelter is directing the project. It is expected that the project will remain in a quiet period for an additional 18 to 24 months as they reevaluate how to take the facility forward.

Mary Ellen Hunley with City Opera Ballet said the woman who was serving as the development director is currently serving as the deputy director in place of Mr. Cullom. The staffer serving as the education director is still there, but all other staff have left.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

A. Written Correspondence – As Noted

B. Information – As Noted

i. Committees – As Noted

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Manfredi adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.



## COVID-19 and the Local Arts Community

At today's meeting, staff will present an overview on the impacts that COVID-19 has had on the local arts community and what staff are doing to respond. The below includes information gathered during over 20 interviews between staff and arts organizations and arts businesses and a list of items that staff have done to support the arts through this.

### IMPACTS

In early March of this year, the pandemic shut down in-person art, cultural and educational experiences first in King County and then across Washington and the rest of the country. The initial shutdown posed challenges for all organizations and many hoped to return to full operation within a few weeks to a few months. What followed was unprecedented with the shutdown of many art, cultural and educational experiences for at least several months and potentially much longer. Annual events have been cancelled and delayed. Organizations have gone into hibernation into 2021. In terms of employment in the arts, the closing of many operations and organizations, festivals and other events, in-person instruction, museums, theaters, and other arts facilities resulted in over 60% of those working in the arts have been furloughed or laid off. This compares only equal to layoffs of restaurant and retail workers. Some of the impacts include:

- Organizations that rely on single events, like Performing Arts Festival Eastside and many other of our grantees have chosen to not hold events in 2020, potentially leaving their grants unfulfilled;
- Wintergrass cancelled its annual event for February 2021.;
- ArtFair and the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Fair are cancelled;
- Cultural Festivals like Japan Fair and many others are cancelled;
- Village Theatre cancelled its Pied Piper school program in Bellevue;
- Many arts organizations rely on revenue from summer camps which have been largely cancelled;
- Organizations that received a Payroll Protection Program loan (reimbursable for money spent on salaries) have largely spent this money and ultimately had to lay off most of their staff;
- Performing arts organizations are particularly hard hit. Even if events are allowed at reduced capacity, the seating arrangements reduce the capacity of facilities making events not financially feasible in most cases;
- Many orchestras would use the entire capacity of facilities like West Minster Chapel or Meydenbauer Theater without an audience present with social distancing;
- Organizations that have singers or use wind instruments face potential further restrictions; and
- Most larger performing arts groups are planning for a spring 2021 opening.

### SOME POSITIVES

While the impacts have been severe, there have been some positives. These include:

- To date, staff is not aware of any arts organizations working in Bellevue that have had to close their doors permanently;
- Many organizations have been able to maintain some semblance of normal operation by shifting programming online. Some great examples include KidsQuest's online content and Music Works NW transferring 50% of their students to virtual learning;
- Philanthropy for many organizations has increased. 70% of Artsfund's donations to their cultural relief fund were from new donors. Other organizations across the Eastside tell a similar story although the trend of most of the philanthropic dollars from the Eastside going to Seattle continues; and
- The pandemic has pushed the arts on the Eastside to work together.
  - What started as a group of arts organizations informally meeting to talk about the pandemic has grown into the Eastside Arts and Culture Coalition, a group comprised of 30-40 members from arts organizations across the Eastside.



- Bellevue has convened regular collaboration and information sharing meetings with Eastside city art administrators, including Issaquah, Kirkland and Redmond. This has led to the cities thinking strategically and looking for opportunities to share resources and amplify messages.

## **WHAT THE CITY IS DOING TO SUPPORT THE ARTS**

Staff have been very active since the start of the pandemic. Including:

- Immediately providing a continually updated list of local and national resources for artists and arts organizations on our website;
- Meeting with over 20 arts organizations and businesses that were awarded grants in one-on-one sessions;
- Promoting and channeling arts organizations and businesses to the technical assistance program offered in partnership between Eastside cities and chambers. This program offered help to businesses and organizations through federal loan programs;
- Co-leading and working to grow the Eastside Arts and Culture Coalition;
- Working to get budgeted funding for artists out the door – Portable Artworks Call;
- Updating the Power Up Program to focus on resiliency and going virtual and opening the educational sessions to all Eastside organizations;
- Working to align grant deliverables agreed to before the pandemic, like in-person events, with the reality of most arts events being online in 2020
- Launching an Arts Audience Participation Survey in 8 languages in partnership with Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton and the Eastside Arts and Culture Coalition to gauge comfort in returning to in-person events, interest in types of virtual and other alternative models for events, and to gain insight into what barriers may exist to participate in virtual programming; and
- Reenvisioning Bellwether 2020 to take place during potential pandemic conditions while also planning 2021. This includes:
  - Moving the event to December-January;
  - Removing all indoor locations;
  - Focusing on artworks that don't invite touching like large projections and murals on buildings
  - Filming planned performances this summer at different interesting Bellevue locations and releasing the videos during Bellwether;
  - Planning online conversations and possibly other events; and
  - As all curators were working with artists on proposals for the original model of Bellwether, we are shifting most artwork that was planned for this year to Bellwether 2021. This allows us to get a year ahead in planning Bellwether which has been a longtime goal.
- Bellevue is also collaborating with the Bellevue Downtown Association on a campaign for Downtown called the Heart of Bellevue, which will feature art, music and activations in the Downtown as part of a recovery program. Bellwether 2020 could be referenced as part of the Heart of Bellevue campaign.

## **OUTLOOK**

It is challenging to understand what the longterm impacts of the pandemic will be on the arts. Like organizations creating a new plan from week to week as conditions change, staff are continuing to be engaged and respond as is possible.

# Action and Discussion

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Bellevue Arts Commission

Zoom Meeting: 4:30 pm

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## Portable Artworks Call

At today's meeting, staff will present the call for portable artworks to be included into the Bellevue Art Collection.

**Motion:** A motion to recommend to approve the Portable Artworks Call as written.

### BELLEVUE ART COLLECTION'S MISSION

The City of Bellevue seeks to be a vital platform for cultural exchange and creative inspiration. The City turns to living artists to enrich the collective experience of Bellevue's public places through permanent commissions and a growing collection of moveable artworks funded through the Public Art Program. A segment of the collection is devoted to artworks that raise the discourse on the defining aspects of Bellevue's civic life, exploring the diverse identities of our residents, converging cultures, international connections, technological currents and interplay between nature and the urban experience that make Bellevue's environment unique. Bellevue's art collection helps document the dynamic moments and complexities of Bellevue's cultural life and is an important resource for future generations.

### BACKGROUND

Without purchase of portable art, meaning art that can easily be moved, the Bellevue Art Collection is restricted to specific types of artists. In 2016, the Arts Commission approved a call for a portable artworks roster. That call was open to all professional artists living in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and British Columbia, Canada. That roster featured artworks up to \$25,000 in price narrowed down by a panel of arts professionals to artworks from approximately twenty artists. Total purchases from that roster included two artworks by artist Junko Yamamoto. The roster expired in 2018.

### NEW PORTABLE ARTWORKS CALL

For this call, the City of Bellevue Public Art Program is seeking to purchase artworks from submitted two-dimensional visual art (drawings, mixed media, painting, photography, prints, and textiles), electronic art (digital, film, new media, and video) and small three-dimensional artwork (no larger than 18" in any direction).

The total budget for purchase of portable artworks is \$24,000 plus sales tax. Balancing the desire to purchase quality artworks for the collection and to purchase artwork from more artists, particularly during the pandemic, the new call has a maximum price of \$2,400 per artwork. Additionally, staff added the restriction on purchasing multiple artworks from an artist if the artworks add up to more than \$2,400. With this, the City could purchase artwork from at least ten artists with the total budget. The online deadline for submission is August 17<sup>th</sup> with the call posted one month prior. The call is open to all professional artists and artists working towards being professional that live in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

Following the deadline, staff will convene a panel comprised of the Chair of the Arts Commission, or their designee, and two arts professionals. The selection criteria includes artistic merit and compelling themes relevant to the mission of the collection. Artworks that contain violence, profanity, or nudity will not be purchased. Recommended artworks for purchase will be presented to the full Arts Commission for approval prior to purchase. The call is included on the following pages. If the Arts Commission recommends to approve the call, staff will work to include details about where online to apply once the online application has been built.

## **CALL FOR PORTABLE ARTWORKS**

### **CITY OF BELLEVUE ARTS PROGRAM**

#### **OPPORTUNITY**

The City of Bellevue seeks to purchase portable artwork that exemplifies the mission of the Bellevue Art Collection. The maximum purchase price of selected artwork(s) per artist is \$2,400. This call is open to all visual artists living in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. The deadline for consideration is August 17, 2020. Purchased artworks will be included in the Bellevue Art Collection and will eventually be located throughout City-owned and publicly accessible buildings and offices. The future locations of the purchased artworks is at the City of Bellevue's discretion.

#### **BELLEVUE ART COLLECTION'S MISSION**

The City of Bellevue seeks to be a vital platform for cultural exchange and creative inspiration. The City turns to living artists to enrich the collective experience of Bellevue's public places through permanent commissions and a growing collection of moveable artworks funded through the Public Art Program. A segment of the collection is devoted to artworks that raise the discourse on the defining aspects of Bellevue's civic life, exploring the diverse identities of our residents, converging cultures, international connections, technological currents and interplay between nature and the urban experience that make Bellevue's environment unique. Bellevue's art collection helps document the dynamic moments and complexities of Bellevue's cultural life and is an important resource for future generations.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Purchased portable art will join a small but growing collection of portable artworks within the Bellevue Art Collection. The current collection is comprised of over 70 permanently sited and integrated artworks and portable works by acclaimed artists such as Lois Graham, Judy Onofrio and Jae Hyo Lee and coming artworks by artists Marc Fornes and Po Shu Wang. Most of these artworks are sculptures. The goal of growing the collection of portable artworks is to diversify the collection by adding a range of visual art mediums and artistic voices. Portable art will also increase the number of artworks accessible in city-owned buildings in Bellevue neighborhoods.

#### **BUDGET**

A total of \$24,000 will be used to purchase portable artworks with a price of \$2,400 or less per artwork. Only one selected artwork will be purchased from an artist unless the total purchase price of the artworks adds up to \$2,400 or less. Sales tax is in addition to the purchase price. Please note that the purchase will not be finalized until Bellevue staff has an opportunity to view the artwork in-person and the Arts Commission votes to approve the purchase.

If electronic artwork is submitted, all equipment should be included with the artwork purchase price and easily moved and installed in a variety of locations and environments in order to be considered. Artists that need to arrange shipping will need to include that as a separate line item for each artwork on the image description sheet. Shipping charges plus purchase of the artwork will need to fit below the maximum price of \$2,400.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

This call is open to all active professional visual artists in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties in Washington State. Artists must be able to deliver or arrange for delivery of artwork to Bellevue.

#### **WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR**

Available two-dimensional visual art (drawings, mixed media, painting, photography, prints, and textiles), electronic art (digital, film, new media, and video) and small three-dimensional artwork (no larger than 18" in any direction) will be considered for purchase at this time. The artwork will enter a rotating portable

works collection and artworks may need to be moved by one person. Artists may submit up to ten images of available work or up to five links if submitting electronic artworks. If two-dimensional, Bellevue will arrange and pay for framing, listening to advice from the artist once the artwork has been purchased. Framing, hanging, and presentation costs will be managed completely by Bellevue staff and is not a part of the \$2,400 maximum purchase price of an artwork.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

5 PM Pacific Standard Time, **Monday, August 17, 2020**. Please allow ample time to complete your application; applications submitted after the 5 PM deadline will not be accepted.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS** (To be submitted online)

- **ARTIST APPLICATION** Please fill out all required fields in the online application.
- **ARTIST'S STATEMENT (not to exceed 150 words)** Please write a brief description of your artistic intent - inspiration, interests, point-of-view, techniques, etc.
- **ARTIST'S BIO (not to exceed 150 words)** Please summarize your background as well as artistic influences, training and major achievements.
- **UP TO 10 IMAGES OF AVAILABLE ARTWORK** Artists are encouraged to submit up to 10 images of available artworks – this could be ten different artworks or multiple images of the same artwork. If your work is digital, we encourage you to submit a link to videos.
- **IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS** Please describe your work samples by including title, year made, medium, dimensions and price. Artworks listed without a price will not be submitted. Artists that are not able to deliver artwork to Bellevue must include shipping costs for each artwork (as a separate line item) on the image description form. If a submitted artwork is no longer available Bellevue the selection panel will need to select from the pool of artworks submitted by the deadline.
- **RÉSUMÉ**

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Artwork will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: artistic merit and compelling themes relevant to the mission of the collection. Artworks that contain violence, profanity, or nudity will not be purchased.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

A panel composed of the Chair of the Arts Commission, or their designee, and two arts professionals will recommend artworks for purchase. City of Bellevue staff will reach out to artists with recommended works to schedule a time to view the artwork in-person, unless other viewing means are deemed sufficient. Bellevue staff will make every concession necessary to view artworks safely. Staff will present their recommendations to the full Arts Commission for approval of purchase.

The City of Bellevue reserves the right not to select any of the submitted artworks.

### **NOTIFICATION RESULTS**

Artists will be notified by 5 PM on August 31, 2020 whether their artwork has been recommended by the selection panel. Bellevue staff will work to schedule a viewing time for each artwork throughout September. Staff will present their recommendations to the Arts Commission for approval on October 6, 2020. Approval schedule is subject to change if deemed necessary.

### **CONTACT US**

For all questions regarding this call, please contact Scott MacDonald at 425-452-4852 or [smacdonald@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:smacdonald@bellevuewa.gov).

For questions specific to the application, please contact Manette Stamm at [mstamm@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mstamm@bellevuewa.gov).

# Action and Discussion

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Bellevue Arts Commission

Zoom Meeting: 4:30 pm

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## Eastside Artists Roster Call

At today's meeting, staff will present the call for the creation of an Eastside Artists Roster.

**Motion:** A motion to recommend to approve the Eastside Artists Roster Call as written.

### BACKGROUND

At the March 3, 2020 Arts Commission meeting, commissioners suggested to staff to explore development of a roster of artists living and working on the Eastside. This request was in response to an issue that the Arts Program has long sought to improve upon – connecting with artists living and working in the local community.

### EASTSIDE ARTISTS ROSTER CALL

The intent of this roster is three-fold: find out who is working in the community, connect them with information about opportunities, and direct specific types of opportunities to the roster. The roster will not be a juried roster as is typical. It is intended to be a resource for both artists and the city that is not exclusionary.

This roster is open to artists living and working in East King County (Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Snoqualmie and Woodinville) to use for craft, public art, music and performance opportunities. The roster will be open starting August 1st and artists can submit at any time following that. The roster will be used as a resource for selected small public art projects (up to \$30,000) geared towards emerging artists seeking to enter or establish themselves in the field of public art, curators working on future Bellwethers (Bellevue's annual contemporary art event), and an outreach resource about other upcoming opportunities and events, including larger public art projects.

The roster will open for online applications on August 1, 2020. There is no deadline to apply and the application will remain open into the future. The call is included on the following pages. If the Arts Commission recommends to approve the call, staff will work to include details about where online to apply once the online application has been built.

## CALL FOR EASTSIDE ARTISTS ROSTER

### CITY OF BELLEVUE ARTS PROGRAM

#### OPPORTUNITY

The City of Bellevue seeks to build an Eastside Artist Roster of artists living or working in Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Snoqualmie and Woodinville to use for craft, public art, music and performance opportunities. The roster will be open starting August 1st and artists can submit at any time. The roster will be used as a resource for selected small public art projects (up to \$30,000) geared towards emerging artists seeking to enter or establish themselves as public artists, curators for future Bellwethers (Bellevue's contemporary art event), hiring musicians and artists, and an outreach resource about upcoming opportunities, including larger public art projects. This is not a juried roster but a resource to connect artists living or working on the Eastside into art opportunities.

#### BELLEVUE ART COLLECTION'S MISSION

While this roster is a resource for hiring musicians, performers and other types of artists, it will also be a resource for public art projects.

The City of Bellevue seeks to be a vital platform for cultural exchange and creative inspiration. The City turns to living artists to enrich the collective experience of Bellevue's public places through permanent commissions and a growing collection of moveable artworks funded through the Public Art Program. A segment of the collection is devoted to artworks that raise the discourse on the defining aspects of Bellevue's civic life, exploring the diverse identities of our residents, converging cultures, international connections, technological currents and interplay between nature and the urban experience that make Bellevue's environment unique. Bellevue's art collection helps document the dynamic moments and complexities of Bellevue's cultural life and is an important resource for future generations.

#### ELIGIBILITY

The Eastside Artist Roster is open to all artists living or working in Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Snoqualmie and Woodinville. Artists living or working in other areas may still apply for other opportunities as they are advertised. It is up to the artist to determine their eligibility for the Eastside Artist Roster.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINES

There is no deadline to be included, although the sooner the better to get signed up. The roster is open as of August 1, 2020. Artists can elect to be removed from the roster at any time.

#### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (To be submitted online)

- **ARTIST APPLICATION** Please fill out all required fields in the online application.
- **ARTIST'S STATEMENT** (not to exceed 150 words) Please write a brief description of your artistic intent - inspiration, interests, point-of-view, techniques, etc.
- **ARTIST'S BIO** (not to exceed 150 words) Please summarize your background as well as artistic influences, training and major achievements.
- **SAMPLE IMAGES/VIDEOS/RECORDINGS OF ARTWORK** Artists are encouraged to submit up to 5 images of their artworks. If your work is musical or performative, we encourage you to submit up to 5 links to videos or recordings.
- **RÉSUMÉ**

#### CONTACT US

For all questions regarding this call, please contact Manette Stamm at [mstamm@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mstamm@bellevuewa.gov).



Community Development

# Reports

## PROJECT UPDATES

### GENERAL

#### Arts Community Manager

**Update:** Scott MacDonald has accepted the Arts Community Manager position and began fully in this capacity in May.

#### Old Bellevue Business Support

**Update:** City staff has been working with Microsoft and businesses in Old Bellevue on potentially creating temporary space for restaurant seating on Main Street during the pandemic. This could involve a partial periodic closure of a section of Main Street on certain evenings. Microsoft will be the sponsor for associated costs. This includes a potential mural. Staff is providing guidance to Microsoft on incorporating a mural into their project.

### GRANT PROGRAMS

#### 2020 Funding Cycle and Allocations Committee

**Update:** Many grantees are not able to fulfill their original grant conditions as in-person events are generally cancelled for 2020.

#### CIP Cultural Arts Fund

No updates to report.

#### Power Up Bellevue

**Update:** An update will be provided as part of the Covid-19 agenda item.

### PLANNING PROJECTS

#### BelRed Arts District

No updates to report.

#### BelRed Streetscape Plan Update

No updates to report.

#### Cultural Compass

No updates to report.

### PUBLIC ART

#### 130<sup>th</sup> Streetscape Public Art

**Update:** The artist has developed a new artwork concept and will present it to the Arts Commission in the coming months.



### Bellwether 2019

**Update:** An update will be provided as part of the Covid-19 agenda item.

### Downtown Park Public Art

**Update:** Park construction has begun. Staff are negotiating final points of the artist fabrication contract. The schedule of the project may be delayed somewhat by impacts from the pandemic.

### East Link Public Art

No updates to report.

### Grand Connection

No updates to report.

### Lattawood Park

**Update:** Parks staff have tentatively scheduled site work in preparation for the artwork installation to start in the second half of July with the project hopefully complete by the end of August or sooner.

### Public Art Collection & Maintenance

**Update:** Staff has revised the scope of the maintenance Request for Proposals (RFP) to focus on the artworks in need of repair. This scope will include two artwork restorations – Garden of Alternatives and Arc with 4 Forms.

Staff will be coming back to the commission at later meetings to discuss the following issues with the collection:

1. Two artworks have been in storage for at least 12 years. Parks has indicated that they don't want them sited in a park pointing to their artistic merit. There could be a chance that one of these artworks could be sited in the ROW but the other is doubtful. There is a need to remove these artworks from storage to save funding for other public art projects. Storage fees have well exceeded the original cost of the artworks. The commission could consider deaccessioning the artwork that is harder to place.
2. Longboat Reed Rookery – The Facilities and Asset Management department has requested to move this artwork to a new location at City Hall. It is also in need of a major restoration. Restoration has been quoted between \$30,000 to \$50,000 for materials only. With labor this renovation project could be \$40,000 to \$60,000 or more. It is understood that this level of repair and investment would need to be undertaken every 10-15 years. The artwork has been appraised at \$175,000 if fully functional and repaired. These amounts are currently not budgeted and would require a reduction in other projects to fund. Staff may bring this artwork back to the commission for consideration of options, which could include deaccession.
3. Bellgate – The current location is planned for redevelopment early 2021 and the artwork needs to move. Ownership of the artwork is complicated; the City only currently a minor owner of the piece and the majority owning organization is possibly dissolving. If they do dissolve, their ownership stake will be transferred to the Bellevue Arts Museum who doesn't want it. More information on this, including information on siting, will be provided at a later meeting.



Community Development

# Information

June 24, 2020

City of Bellevue  
Attn: Theresa Cuthill  
PO Box 90012  
Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Theresa,

Thank you for City of Bellevue \$6,660 Grants Program 2020 for Eastside Arts gift. KidsQuest Children's Museum is incredibly grateful for the support!

KidsQuest's mission of inspiring educational, interactive, play-based learning is more relevant than ever. KidsQuest is adapting and serving our youngest community members, families, and those that are disproportionately impacted; to ensure that in this time of crisis, everyone has the needed tools to adapt, learn, and play.



City of Bellevue donation supports efforts such as:

- Free Educational Resource Kits - it is important to have materials at home for play-based explorative learning. For many low-income families and those in transitional housing, these resources are lacking, so KidsQuest is putting together hundreds of learning kits and distributing them with the help of longtime community partners, such as the Bellevue School District, Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, and King County Housing Authority.
- Free Educational Videos - KidsQuest is producing digital content that is released five times a week. Videos cover a variety of topics, including math, science, art, and reading. These videos are recommended for kids 0-10, with activity adjustments and suggestions based on age.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Putter Bert".

Putter Bert  
President & CEO  
[Putter@kidsquestmuseum.org](mailto:Putter@kidsquestmuseum.org)

**KidsQuest Children's Museum creates learning through the power of play and exploration  
that connects children to their communities and the world.**

KidsQuest Children's Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN #91-1828830) and acknowledges that no goods or services were provided in return for the contribution. This letter is a tax receipt.