



# Call for Artists - Emerging Artist Projects

City of Bellevue Arts Program

Deadline: May 17, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

## Opportunity

The City of Bellevue seeks two artists to design permanent outdoor 3-dimensional artwork for two public art projects in Bellevue, Washington. This opportunity is open to local artists who seek to expand their practice from the studio into outdoor public art. Eligible artists must not have completed a public art project with a budget above \$25,000 and must live in Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, San Juan and Snohomish counties in Washington. Artists who only make 2-dimensional (flat) artwork are not eligible.

This is an opportunity for the selected artists to expand an existing body of work into a new scale and possibly a new material while gaining valuable experience in public art, with support from concept design through fabrication and installation from an established public art mentor and the City of Bellevue's Public Art Specialist. The application deadline is May 17, 2026, at midnight.

## About the Call

This call aims to create two new artworks – one in Lake Hills Community Park and one in or adjacent to Lewis Creek Park.

This is a mentoring opportunity for an artist with little experience in public art, but artists must be organized, flexible, have experience working in multiple materials, and open to learning and growing as artists.

While this opportunity is about experiencing an artist's work in a larger scale, it's not intended to simply replicate an existing work, but to build on a current body of work with a change in scale, possibly material, and in a new outdoor setting. An example could be an artist who typically

creates ceramic works that can be transformed with new, durable materials and scaled to suit the outdoors. Interested artists will submit up to 2 current and distinct three-dimensional bodies of work for consideration by an artist selection panel. An example of a body of work could be artworks that are similar in aesthetics and style or art-making practices and methods.

The budget for the artists' work is \$75,000 per project, inclusive of design, fabrication, and installation. Each artist will be mentored by a professional public artist hired by the city to complement the artists' skill sets and the City's Public Art Specialist through all phases of this project. The City will fund, separately from each artist's budget, all engineering, foundation work, and required permits, while working closely with each artist as part of the mentorship.

The projects are expected to be completed within two years of a finalized contract with each artist.

Bellevue is an extremely diverse community, with 67.5% of its population identifying as people of color, 48.7% of residents born outside the United States and 53.3% of residents speaking a language other than English at home. Representing diverse voices and perspectives in the City's public art collection is critical. Diverse artists are highly encouraged to apply.

## Project Locations

1. Lake Hills Community Park Public Art Opportunity
2. Lewis Creek Park Area Public Art Opportunity



## Eligibility

This call is open to three-dimensional artists who:

- Seek to expand their practice from the studio into outdoor public art.
- Have not completed a public art project with a budget above \$25,000.
- Live in Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, San Juan or Snohomish counties, in Washington State.
- Can travel to the site they are selected for.
- Attain the City's mandatory insurance coverage, by the time of contracting (you don't need it to apply), including Commercial General Liability coverage with limits not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$2,000,000 annual aggregate.

## Project Timeline

- **May 17, 2026: Call Closes**
- **June 2026:** Artist Selection Panel and Finalist Interviews
- **July 2026:** Selected Artist Recommended to Arts Commission
- **August–September 2026:** Contracting and Mentor Selection
- **October–January 2027\*:** Development of Initial Design (includes community outreach)
- **February 2027\*:** Staff Review
- **March–September 2027\*:** Final Design and Fabrication Drawings
- **October–September 2028\*:** Fabrication and Installation

\*Please note these dates are tentative.

## Application Deadline

**Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** Please allow ample time to complete your application; applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please reach out before the deadline. If you do not have access to a computer, arrangements can be made to submit paper applications; in this case, please contact us no later than May 3, 2026.

## Application Requirements (to be submitted online)

- **Artist Application** Please fill out all required fields in the online application, including your primary location, artistic medium, and items below.
- **Artist's Statement** (not to exceed 150 words) Please write a brief description of how this opportunity is important to your progression as an artist – if relevant, include inspiration, career goals, point-of-view, techniques, etc.
- **Artist's Bio** (not to exceed 150 words) Please summarize your background and artistic influences, training and significant achievements.
- **Resume** (no more than two pages) Please provide a condensed resume.
- **Up To Five Images of a Current Body of Your Artwork** Please submit up to 5 images of a body of three-dimensional artwork that you are interested in creating a new design of an artwork at a larger scale and suitable for the outdoors. Each applicant can submit up to 2 bodies of artwork (a maximum of 5 images per body, for a total of 10). This call is a request for qualifications, so please do not submit proposals.
- **Body of Work and Image Descriptions** Please provide a short description of each submitted body of work (not to exceed 150 words each), with descriptions of all images to include: title of artwork, medium, year made, and commission amount (if any).

## How To Apply

Complete the online application by midnight on May 17, 2026. Applications are collected through Submittable. Link to Call Application: [bellevuearts.submittable.com/submit](https://bellevuearts.submittable.com/submit)

## Selection Criteria and Process

An artist will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Artistic merit (merit factors can include artistic vision, mastery of technique, originality, viability).
- Eligibility and Application Materials.
- Artists residing in Bellevue, WA, will be given additional consideration by the selection panel.

A panel composed of the Chair of the Arts Commission, or their designee, two arts professionals, and two community members, will recommend five artists for interviews for the two projects. City of Bellevue staff will review and conduct phone interviews before the selection panel makes its final recommendation for which artist to pair with each of the two opportunities. City of Bellevue staff will present the panel's recommendations to the full Arts Commission for approval. Contracting with the artists will commence immediately following the Arts Commission's voting, and the selected artists will need to be available in September of this year to provide a certificate of insurance and final contracting.

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

## General Design Guidelines

- The installed artwork can't include anything that is kinetic, powered or requires a water source.
- There can be multiple independent components to the artwork, although they must relate in scale, form and aesthetic treatment and be located in approved locations.
- There should be no opening between 4-6" within the design of the artwork – this avoids hands or other body parts getting stuck.

- Artworks that require a wide foundation pad will not be accepted. This controls the cost of foundation work.
- This is an opportunity for an artist to increase the scale of a body of work they are currently working in. The artist must supply an original design that is similar in form, expression or aesthetic treatment to the selected body of work. This controls for unknowns and simplifies the design process. Artwork designs that are clearly a new body of work, not related to the selected body of work, will not be accepted.
- The artist must own all rights to all content used in the artwork.
- The artwork must be appropriate for display in public spaces and viewing by a general audience, containing no text (including words, quotes, or letters), advertising or branding, or graphic depictions of violence and sexually explicit material (including nudity).
- The artwork will be considered a "permanent" artwork and will be included in the Bellevue Art Collection, the City of Bellevue's public art collection. The fabricated and installed artwork will be considered to have a minimum lifespan of 25 years and will be designed accordingly. This time frame should be considered the artwork's general lifespan; however, the City of Bellevue, upon a vote of the Arts Commission, may deaccession the artwork at any time for any purpose.

## Contact Us

For questions regarding the call and how to apply, please contact Scott MacDonald at 425-452-7897 or [smacdonald@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:smacdonald@bellevuewa.gov)

