



Call for Artists - Factoria Public Art

City of Bellevue Arts Program

Deadline: June 7, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PST

Opportunity

The City of Bellevue seeks a highly experienced public artist or artist team to design, fabricate and install a large-scale public artwork in the Factoria neighborhood of Bellevue, Washington. The design of the artwork must be informed by Factoria's community or elements of the area and provide a key visual landmark at the main entrance to the neighborhood's commercial, residential and shopping area on Factoria Boulevard.

The total budget for this project is \$600,000 plus applicable sales tax. The awarded contract will be split into two key phases of work. The first is for all design and engineering work of the artwork and will not exceed \$120,000. The second phase of the contract will be exercised if the artwork's design is approved by the Bellevue Arts Commission and the Washington State Department of Transportation (owners of the site). This phase of work will include the fabrication and installation of the approved artwork and will not exceed \$480,000 plus applicable sales tax. The total budget of \$600,000 plus applicable sales tax is inclusive of travel and all associated expenses by the artist or team.

About the Call

This project will create a new major artwork in the Factoria neighborhood of Bellevue, Washington. The selected artist will create a unique artwork that will both reflect the neighborhood while also serving a key landmark for South Bellevue.

Factoria today is anchored by a major regional commercial and office center on and around Factoria Boulevard with a mix of multifamily and single-family housing. Long part of the ancestral homeland of the Duwamish people, historically,

the area was rich in old-growth forests. As local logging expanded in the late 1800s, the area became attractive to logging operations from Seattle. In the 1910s, it was unsuccessfully marketed as a factory destination, hence the name "Factoria." It then briefly blossomed as a center for regional rabbit farming, then became the location of a 900-car drive-in theater in the 1950s. In the 1960s it evolved again as a large regional shopping area with the development of Factoria Mall following construction of the intersection of Interstate 90 and Interstate 405.

Today, Factoria is a mix of retail development, office buildings, including T-Mobile's headquarters, and multi-family and single-family housing. Factoria, like Bellevue more broadly, is a diverse community. It is a community with lower incomes than much of Bellevue, though that gap is rapidly shrinking as a slightly cheaper housing supply has drawn many new residents. Additionally, the dense commercial area on Factoria Boulevard, where this project will construct a future artwork, is likely to see significant change with the development of new multifamily housing in the coming decades, transforming the area yet again.

The artwork's site is adjacent to Factoria Boulevard, directly across the street from the Mountains to Sound Greenway trail, south of Interstate 90 and a planned light rail station. The artwork, once installed, will be the first thing that drivers and transit users experience upon entering the commercial and office area.

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Eligibility

This opportunity is open to:

- National and international artists with demonstrated experience working on major public art projects.
- Artists that are legally able to work in the United States.
- Artists that are able to travel to Bellevue, Washington.

The selected artist or artist team will be required to maintain insurance requirements and provide the city a certificate of insurance throughout the extent of the project.

Project Timeline

- **June 7, 2026: Call Closes**
- **July 2026:** Artist Selection Panel and Finalist Interviews
- **September 2026:** Selected Artist Recommended to Arts Commission
- **September-October 2026:** Contracting
- **October 2026-February 2027*:** Development of Initial Design (includes community outreach)
- **February-June 2027*:** City and State Staff Review
- **June 2027-February 2028*:** Final Design and Fabrication Drawings
- **February-May 2028*:** Permitting
- **May 2028-June 2029*:** Fabrication and Installation

*Please note these dates are tentative.

Application Deadline

Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time) on June 7, 2026. 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 24, 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 your skills or experience as an artist align with this opportunity – if relevant, include inspiration, 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.
- **Artwork Images - Up to Seven Images of Past Completed Projects** Please submit up to 7 images of completed public artworks. Please do not submit concept drawings. This call is a request for qualifications, so please do not submit proposals for this site.
- **Artwork Image Descriptions** Please provide a short description of each image, including the title of the artwork, medium, year made, and artwork budget.

How To Apply

Complete the online application by 11:59 p.m. PST on June 7, 2026. Applications are collected through Submittable. Link to Call Application: bellevuearts.submittable.com/submit

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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, compatibility).
- 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 three artists for interviews. Interviews will take place virtually and at a minimum of two weeks following finalist notification. 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.

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

General Design Guidelines

The scale and form of the future artwork should reflect the project's key objectives. The artwork should:

- Be unique to Factoria.
- Create an important landmark for the Factoria area and more broadly south Bellevue.
- Balance the area's history with its future.
- Remain within the approved budget.
- Conform to Washington State Department of Transportation's operational requirements for limiting visual distractions from the adjacent freeway (the location likely isn't visible from the freeway, but it would be from an off-ramp).

Contact Us

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

