



Call For Portable Artworks

City of Bellevue Arts Program

Deadline: October 13, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PDT



Harvesting Hope by Lauren Iida.

Opportunity

The City of Bellevue seeks to purchase 2D and 3D portable artworks that exemplify the vision of the Public Art Collection. The maximum purchase price of selected artwork(s) per artist is \$12,000 (excluding City of Bellevue sales tax). The call is open to all living professional visual artists and visual artists residing in Island, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Chelan, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit or Snohomish counties, in Washington State. 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 are at the city's discretion.

Vision of the City of Bellevue's Public Art Collection

The Bellevue Public Art Collection seeks to be a leading platform and community resource for cultural exchange and creative inspiration through art. The collection enhances the experience of Bellevue's public places, fosters community pride and belonging, raises the discourse on the defining aspects of Bellevue's civic life, and explores the diverse identities and converging cultures of our residents, creative sectors, and the interplay between nature and the urban experience.

Background

Purchased portable art will join a growing collection of portable artworks within the Bellevue Art Collection. The current Public Art collection comprises 140 works by acclaimed artists such as Marc Fornes/THEVERYMANY, Judy Onofrio, Jae Hyo Lee, and Po Shu Wang. The goal of growing the collection of portable artworks is to expand its range of visual art media and artistic voices. Portable art will also increase the number of artworks that are publicly accessible across Bellevue.

Eligibility

This call is open to living professional visual artists and visual artists residing in Island, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Chelan, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit or Snohomish counties, in Washington State. Artists must be able to deliver artwork to Bellevue City Hall or arrange for its delivery. Galleries and artists' representatives are eligible to submit on artists' behalf. However, the artists themselves must still be living visual artists residing in eligible counties, regardless of where the gallery or representative is located.

What We Are Looking For

- Small three-dimensional artwork (no heavier than 70 lbs.)
- Unframed two-dimensional visual art (drawings, mixed media, painting, photography, prints, and textiles)
- Electronic art (digital, film, new media, and video).
- Artwork that is high-quality, improves the experience of public space and is maintainable and safe for the community to interact with.

Artists may submit up to five artworks that are available for purchase. Only one selected artwork will be purchased from an artist unless the total purchase price of the artwork(s) adds up to \$12,000 or less.

The city will manage farming, hanging, and presentation costs, which are not included in the \$12,000 maximum purchase price of the artwork. The Arts Program has a limited stock of electronic equipment; if digital artworks are selected for purchase, city staff will work directly with the artist to determine the best presentation method given the available equipment. Please note that the purchase will not be finalized until city staff has an opportunity to view the artwork in person (if requested) and the Arts Commission approves the purchase.

If electronic artwork is submitted, a link or digital file that is easily viewable by the panel should be included with the submission. Artists who need to arrange shipping will cover the shipping costs, which they can include in the artwork sale price. It is preferred that artists arrange to hand-deliver artwork to Bellevue City Hall.

Application Deadline

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. PDT.

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 October 9, 2026.

Application Requirements

(to be submitted online)

- Artist Application: Complete all required fields in the online application, including your primary location, artistic medium, and the items below.
- Artist Bio (not to exceed 150 words): Summarize your background as well as artistic influences, training, and significant achievements.
- Up to Five Images (or Links) of Available Artwork: Submit up to five images or links to available artwork—this could be five different artworks or multiple images of the same artwork if you are only offering one artwork for purchase. If your work is digital, we encourage you to submit a link to the videos rather than the artwork file itself. The panel will use these images to determine what artwork to purchase, so good-quality images are encouraged.
- Artwork Descriptions: Describe your available work by including title, year made, medium, dimensions, weight, and price. Artworks listed without a price or above \$12,000 will not be considered for purchase. If the artwork selected for purchase is no longer available, city staff will consider other artworks and artists that the panel selected as backups.
- Resume (optional)

How to Apply

Complete the online application by the deadline. All applications will be collected via Submittable unless other arrangements are made by October 9, 2026. **If applying as a gallery**, please complete a separate application for each artist you are applying on behalf of. Galleries can apply with up to three (3) separate represented artists. All other applicants may submit only one application.

Link to Call submission:

BellevueArts.Submittable.com/Submit

Selection Criteria and Process

The artwork will be selected based on the following criteria: artistic merit (technical skill, originality, and innovation) and compelling themes that align with the Bellevue Art Collection's vision. The selection panel will give additional consideration to artists residing in Bellevue, WA. Artworks that contain violence, profanity, or nudity will not be considered for purchase.

A panel composed of the Chair of the Arts Commission, or their designee, an arts professional, and a community member will recommend artworks for purchase. City staff will reach out to artists with recommended works and may schedule a time to view the artwork in person, unless alternative viewing methods are deemed sufficient. City staff will present recommended purchases to the entire Arts Commission for approval before arrangements are made with artists to drop off artworks.

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

Notification Results

Artists will be notified by email to confirm artwork availability no later than November 13, 2026. City staff will present their recommendations to the Arts Commission for approval before arranging delivery of the artwork, no later than January 31, 2027. This schedule is subject to change as necessary.

Contact Us

For questions regarding the call and how to apply, please contact Manette Stamm at mstamm@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4064.

