



Chinese Dragon



Artworks by Meng Huang.

Masks

“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

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Agenda

Agenda

Tuesday, November 07, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 p.m.
Bellevue City Hall, 1E-109

Bellevue Arts Commission

Commission Staff Contact: 425.452.4105

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 4:30
Chair Manfredi will call the meeting to order.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES** 4:30 – 4:35
 - A. Chair Manfredi will ask for approval of the agenda.
 - B. Chair Manfredi will ask for approval of the October 2017 regular meeting minutes.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 4:35 – 4:40
Chair Manfredi will entertain oral communications limited to three minutes per person or five minutes if representing the official position of a recognized community organization for other than main agenda items and public hearing subject.
A maximum of three people are permitted to speak to each side of any one topic.
4. **ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Presentations by organizations 4:40 – 5:30
 - B. Grand Connection Art & Cultural Plan endorsement 5:30 – 5:35
 - C. Artspace project discussion 5:35 – 6:05
 - D. Of Mice and Meng exhibition proposal 6:05 – 6:15
5. **COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS** 6:15 – 6:20
6. **REPORTS** 6:20 – 6:25
 - A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports
 - B. Project Updates from Staff
7. **CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION** 6:25 – 6:30
 - A. Written correspondence (if any)
 - B. Information
 2. Committees
8. **ADJOURNMENT** 6:30
Chair Manfredi 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 425-452-5379 (TDD). 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 jheim@bellevuewa.gov ■ 425-452-4105 (Voice) ■ Please dial 711 for assistance for the hearing impaired.

ARTS COMMISSION MEMBERS

Paul Manfredi, Chair
Philip Malkin, Vice Chair
Maria Lau Hui
Trudi Jackson
Rebecca Lewis
Carl Wolfeich

Mayor John Stokes, Council Liaison

STAFF CONTACTS

Joshua Heim, Arts Program Manager, 425-452-4105

Scott MacDonald, Arts Program Coordinator, 425-452-4852

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Minutes

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

October 3, 2017
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Manfredi, Commissioners Jackson, Lau Malkin, Wolfteich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioners Hui, Lewis

STAFF PRESENT: Joshua Heim, Scott MacDonald, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Zac Culler, Ben Beres, John Sutton, CullerBeresSutton; Cathy Springman, Victoria Titova, Sarah Jacobsen, Emerald Ballet Theatre; Wendy Tyner, Patrice O'Neill, Wintergrass

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairperson Manfredi who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Hui and Lewis, both of whom were excused.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Malkin. Second was by Commissioner Jackson and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September 12, 2017, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Wolfteich. Second was by Commissioner Jackson and the motion carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentations by Organizations: Emerald Theatre and Wintergrass

Ms. Cathy Springman, a ten-year volunteer and current member of the board of Emerald Theatre, introduced co-founder and artistic director Viktoria Titova, and co-founder and program director Sarah Jacobsen. She said Emerald Theatre is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The organization is located in the Bel-Red arts district and serves primarily as an incubator for the arts by bringing education and affordable family friendly art to the community. Over the last year a little over 2000 children, adults and special needs dancers

were reached with the studio programs, full-scale productions and outreach programs. The Magic Bus school program is one of the organization's crowning achievements over the past couple of years. The program involves assemblies brought to the schools to bring academic curriculum to life through the arts. Over 1500 elementary school students enjoy the programs annually. The programs are based on state curriculum standards. The organization also partners with the Bellevue School District summer program inspiring some 250 underserved students with the arts.

Emerald Theatre has offered masters classes that involve bringing dance masters from around the world to Bellevue. The programs are open to the public and are attended by both kids and parents.

A program called the EBT Teaching Institute is for older teen dancers. The students are taught dance but also learn about production, producing a performance, costuming, careers in the arts, secondary education in the arts, and gain experience through a teaching practicum. The program offers the community a healthy environment in which to guide young people who are at a difficult age.

Ms. Springman said the organization has a number of partners, including the city of Bellevue, the Bellevue School District, the city of Mercer Island, the Northshore Performing Arts Center Foundation, the YMCA, Ballet West and Youth America Grand Prix, which is an international ballet competition.

Performances are themselves educational, not only to the audience but for the participants. Two full-scale productions are put on annually, including the Nutcracker, which offers the only live orchestral production of the performance on the Eastside. The production involves about 250 children, adults and professional dancers and 100 musicians in five performances over two weekends. The performances are held at Impact because it is not possible to get into Bellevue. The Emerald Theatre Nutcracker performance has been made a part of Impact's official season. New for 2017 is the Petite Nutcracker which will give younger dance students the opportunity to perform in a far less overwhelming environment.

The 2017 spring performance was *My Mama Had a Dancing Heart*, an adaptation of the book by Libba Moore Gray. There were a lot of youth performers involved, including pre-ballet students from the YMCA program and community centers.

Grant money from Bellevue is used by the organization to support boys programs. Most classes for boys are free given that they are an underserved population in dance. Diverse boys of all ages are involved.

Ms. Springman said the 2018 spring production *Peter and the Wolf* will in fact take place in Bellevue at Sammamish High School. There will be a meet the musicians introduction at the beginning. Musicians will be brought to the stage with their instruments to show how the ballet and music work together to create a performance. There will also be an act from Les Sylphides with the Chopin piano score played live.

Competition is an element of the organization's mission. Youth are motivated by a variety of things, and competition can really help them set goals and strive. Youth America Grand Prix is the big competition the organization participates in. It is an international competition with regional semi finals held around the world which culminate in New York City in April. Emerald Theatre's participation in 2016 was its fourth year, and the organization had dancers in the top 12 in every category of the semi finals and in the top three for an ensemble. One young man went on to the finals and is now one of the top six dancers in the world. One young lady is now also a top dancer.

Ms. Springman said Emerald Theatre prides itself on its collaboration with other arts organizations. Last year Bainbridge Island artist George Woodall and a Russian artist collaborated with the organization to create new scenery backdrops. The organization has also worked with Newport High School to create scenery and to teach the students choreography for their plays. Professional dancers are brought in every year to collaborate with local productions. Plans to collaborate with the Bellevue Youth Symphony are being made.

Ms. Patrice O'Neill said Wintergrass is a bluegrass music festival that takes place every year near the end of February. It is enjoying its seventh year in Bellevue and its 25th year in existence. Moving to Bellevue was the best thing the festival ever did, and the support of the city over the years has been appreciated. The festival occurs over a four-day period and features about 150 artists from around the world. There are seven different education programs attached to the festival; most occur during the festival though some take place throughout the year.

The festival starts with PintGrass which teaches small children to play bluegrass music through movement, dance and experimentation. The Youth Academy involves about 100 kids aged seven to fourteen. The kids work with adults and peer teachers through the Youth Academy Teacher Training program who are aged 14 to 20. Rhapsody Songsters is a program for high school kids and collaborates with The Collaboratory in Columbia City; the program deals almost exclusively with disadvantaged kids and is more broadly focused than just music education in that it gives kids an avenue into production, photography, writing, post making and community organizing. The Youth Orchestra program involves about 120 kids, mostly middle schoolers. The program pares classically trained students with aurally trained students and teachers. Those kids are provided music by headline artists who craft arrangements for middle school orchestras. For the upcoming festival, the artists providing the arrangements include Mark O'Connor, Darol Anger and Mike Marshall, and Rushad Eggleston. The artists will also work directly and perform with the kids.

The festival's biggest challenge is space. All programs and classes occur within the confines of the Hyatt Regency. The youth programs could handle far more kids if there were more space.

Ms. O'Neill said about 5000 people per day attend the festival. Some 300 volunteers help to make the festival flow smoothly. There are also a good many partners, including 4Culture, the Port of Seattle, Hale's Brewery and the city of Bellevue.

Ms. Wendy Tyner, Wintergrass development director, said she recently returned from the International Bluegrass Music Association music business conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. She said Wintergrass is well known both nationally and internationally; it has won their award as well as a Grammy for the education director. Beyond that, Bellevue is known for what is being done with the Hyatt Regency, and in fact it has won awards for how it treats customers and supporting the festival. The conference provides professional development for the Wintergrass organizers. The festival in Bellevue sells out 2400 hotel rooms in three hotels over the four nights of the event, and serves as a tremendous economic boon for the city.

Wintergrass is more than just a festival, it is a culture and community of people from all over and of all ages playing music together.

Commissioner Malkin asked about the partnership with Resonance at SOMA Towers. O'Neill said the Wintergrass organizers met with representatives of Resonance right after the last festival to discuss doing six bluegrass-based shows there. The venue is wonderful and is not far from the Hyatt. The intent is to continue with the partnership going forward. The bluegrass

festival held annually in Raleigh attracts about 5000 people, but the city produced street fair that occurs at the same time attracts another 200,000 people. Ultimately the hope is that Wintergrass will extend beyond just the Hyatt.

B. 2018 Bellwether Program Update

Arts Program Manager Joshua Heim reminded the Commission that the approach to Bellwether was different this time around in that it involves working with curators in the form of SuttonBeresCutler. Their first deliverable is a curatorial statement and an artist roster. Curatorial statements are points of departure rather than conclusions; the statements generally outline the questions and big themes the curator is interested in exploring. The curatorial statement submitted by SuttonBeresCuller represents their thinking about how to approach the 2018 Bellwether program. The associated artists roster is much larger than the Commission has traditionally worked with. A finalized artist roster as well as an actual proposal for what the program will look like will be developed in the coming months.

Mr. Beres said SuttonBeresCuller is in touch with each of the artists on the roster. Many of them have never been to Bellevue let alone shown any work in Bellevue. It is exciting thinking about the built environment and the connections that can be made to it.

Mr. Sutton allowed that the statement will be refined as conversations with artists occur. He said SuttonBeresCuller was interested in commissioning new works and performances, and some existing objects.

Commissioner Jackson asked if SuttonBeresCuller will aim primarily at Northwest artists. Mr. Beres said that will not be the case. He pointed out that more than 25 of the artists on the roster are not from the Northwest. Many of the artists will likely be regional or at least West Coast based, primarily for budgetary reasons, but there are a handful of artists who hopefully will be brought out from New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Mr. Sutton agreed that the budget will to a large degree dictate tapping more local artists.

Mr. Beres said the group was excited to be moving away from just sculpture to including music and dance and performance, all with an eye on outlining where the Grand Connection will be and activating it. The thinking is that there will be some performances, some large-scale installations and some murals along the Grand Connection route, incorporating both public and private spaces in partnership with different organizations.

Commissioner Jackson asked if from a branding point of view the name will change to something like Bellwether Festival. Mr. Beres said there have been discussions about what to call it, though the word "festival" is a word the team wants to get away from. The word "Bellwether" will be retained but it will not be called just an exhibition. While the primary Bellwether event will run for only ten days, some of the works and installations likely will be left in place much longer, the murals for possibly many years.

Chair Manfredi asked if a date has been set for Bellwether. Mr. Sutton said the event has tentatively been slated to begin on July 20. Mr. Heim noted that the date overlaps with the Bellevue Arts Museum Arts Fair

Commissioner Malkin pointed out that the previous Bellwether was timed to coincide with the arts fair on the hope that there would be a boost in attendance. The boost did not occur, however. Arts Program Coordinator Scott MacDonald said that could be because the fair and exhibition audiences are separate. Mr. Beres said getting the artists on the list to participate, especially the bigger names, will increase the audience. Mr. Sutton added that there is no

intent to detract from the arts fairs, rather the desire is to make Bellwether work with the arts fairs. Good communication will be required.

Chair Manfredi asked if there will be logistical challenges with regard to the event as planned versus how the exhibition has been run in the past. Mr. MacDonald said the previous model included a three-week window in which artists could do installations. Having a compacted timeframe will reduce the time for installations to occur, but it will also reduce the maintenance aspect. The proposed approach will require a tremendous amount of coordination.

Mr. Beres said consideration has been given to holding the event the week after schools in back in session. The weather is still generally nice then and the event could stand on its own. Mr. Sutton said one disadvantage to having the event during the summer months is the days are really long, limiting opportunities for things like video projection and light art unless they are done in interior spaces. The days are much shorter in September.

Mr. Heim pointed out that the city participates in Welcoming Week in September. The event is specifically about welcoming immigrants and persons from diverse communities into the city. Mr. Beres allowed that there are yet many details to be worked out.

With regard to the artist selection process, Mr. Heim said there will need to be a Commissioner participating in the process. The process will not be as involved as it previously has been. The curators will largely make decisions around artists who do projects to a certain threshold. Projects over that limit must have at least three names submitted to staff, who in turn must solicit an application from the artist. The selection process will likely run along the same time as the work of the applications committee.

There was agreement to assign Commissioner Jackson to serve as part of the artist selection process.

C. Lattawood Park Artist Selection

Mr. MacDonald said the selection panel met on September 14 to select three finalists. The three artists selected were interviewed on September 27. The panel was made up of Commissioner Malkin representing the Commission and the Horizon Heights neighborhood. The president of the Whispering Heights/Collingwood Neighborhood Association, Steve Nicewarner served on the panel along with artist Nori Sato, an accomplished national and international artist. Any of the three finalists would have done a very good job, but ultimately the panel selected the artist team of Jim Hirschfield and Sonya Ishii. The artists, formerly from the Seattle area, now live in North Carolina. Mr. Hirschfield is a professor at the University of North Carolina in sculpture and until a month ago served as head of the school of sculpture. The two artists have worked collaboratively for the last 25 years. The panel liked the artist team's strong commitment to working with communities in a lot of different ways.

Commissioner Malkin noted that throughout their interview, the artists spoke at length about focusing on the path as the canvas. That resonated well with the panel. He allowed that the strengths of the artists interviewed made the work of the panel that much more difficult; all of them submitted very high quality works.

Mr. MacDonald shared with the Commission slides of work done by the artist team of Hirschfield and Ishii, including projects that involved the use of light.

A motion to approve the artist selection of Jim Hirschfield and Sonya Ishii as the artist team as recommended by the artist selection panel for the commission of an artwork for the

Lattawood Park art and lighting project was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and the motion carried unanimously.

D. 130th Avenue Public Art Project

Mr. MacDonald noted that there had been some changes to the project information since the Commission packet was printed. He said the project runs from Spring Boulevard to NE 20th Street along what is called in the Bel-Red plan a designated shopping street. The 130th station will be located at the south end of the project area on Spring Boulevard between 130th Avenue NE and 132nd Avenue NE. The shopping street is envisioned as being lively and walkable with a pedestrian focus and with separated bike lanes and two lanes of traffic, one in each direction. The intent is for the street to be a lively place with no curb cuts for parking lots or access and a seamless pedestrian environment with lots of retail and restaurants and hopefully some galleries. The street lies in the heart of the arts district. The federally funded transportation project will take in all of 130th Avenue NE from Bel-Red Road to NE 20th. The art opportunity is specific to the northern half.

The budget was originally pegged at \$140,000 for a series of integrated artworks that celebrate 130th Avenue NE as a shopping street. After a plea from the assistant director of the transportation department for additional funding, the Urban Boulevards program will contribute an additional \$65,000.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there is any expectation that people will be able to park anywhere near the project area. Mr. MacDonald said Sound Transit will construct a large parking garage as part of the 130th station project. There will also be on-street parking along 130th Avenue NE and south on Spring Boulevard. Additionally, the local streets, which are not yet designed or built, will also have on-street parking. The Bel-Red plan calls for two green streets as well.

Mr. MacDonald said one thing being called out strongly in regard to the 130th streetscape public art project is the idea of using creative placemaking principles. The notion is to build off of the planned community's existing or future character and integrate it into public spaces, including streetscapes. A public art project is not necessarily a creative placemaking project unless it goes the extra mile toward creating identity of place.

The selection criteria is a key component that will be used in keeping the panel focused when making a decision between one artist and another. The artists will be judged based on the quality and strength of their past work. They will also need to demonstrate experience with integrating artworks into infrastructure and have command of creative placemaking. Preference will be given to projects that address corridors and/or walkability. There will be a public open call consistent with federal mandates given that the project is federally funded. The panel will include Commissioner Wolfteich representing the Commission, two community stakeholders, one a representative from a local arts organization and the other a local Bel-Red musician or teacher, a local arts professional, and an artist with experience working with large civic projects.

The selection process will kick off in mid-November, with finalist interviews occurring in early December. The transportation project will be at 30 percent design by early in December after which the selected artist will serve as a member of the design team. Final design is anticipated to be completed in June or July of 2018. Construction is not slated to start until 2020.

A motion to approve the 130th Streetscape Public Artist call as presented was made by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wolfteich and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Downtown Park Public Art Project

Mr. Heim said the public art project is for the Downtown Park northeast corner entrance and is intended to provide an important physical and aesthetic connection to the downtown while providing access to the pedestrian corridor and serving as a focal point for the Grand Connection. The overall project budget is \$300,000, but the advertised opportunity is \$275,000. Half of the money for the overall project will come from partnering with the Grand Connection project. Additionally, through a partnership with the parks department, there is a desire to integrate art into the project. The site at the corner of NE 4th Street and Bellevue Way is highly visible.

Mr. Heim said the scope of work includes having the artist join the design team to assure art integration. The work will have to be done in accord with the existing park master plan, the vision for the Grand Connection, and the vision embedded in the arts and culture master plan.

The selection process will be somewhat more complicated. The project will be advertised and staff will do a qualifying review of the applications. That will give the opportunity for arts, the Grand Connection and parks to develop a pool of candidates that will then be given over to the art selection panel. Chair Manfredi will represent the Commission on the panel along with four other members, two community stakeholders and two arts professionals. The panel will settle on three finalists, each of which will participate in a half day orientation session involving concurrent sessions, possibly on site, at the Bellevue Arts Museum with stakeholders, and one with the actual design team. The format is intended to accommodate the fact that the design team is already on contract and has started its work and has initiated design alternatives based on the master plan principles. The alternatives will be winnowed down to a single option. The design team recognizes the need for integrating the art and the orientation will be timed such that all of the alternatives will be available for review by the three finalists. The next day, the finalists will go through an interview process with the panel. A recommendation and the final alternative will be before the Commission in December.

Commissioner Malkin asked if the panel will influence the decision about which of the design alternatives to choose or if it will simply be informed after the fact. Mr. Heim said that remains an open question. There is a full commitment on the part of all involved to fully integrate art in the project. Hopefully an artist will be under contract by mid to late December so they can have some influence on the design alternatives. Parks would like to have the design alternative in hand by the beginning of the new year, and to have a final design by spring.

A motion to approve the Downtown Park's northeast corner public art artist call as presented was made by Commissioner Wolfteich. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Artspace Project Update

Mr. MacDonald explained that the preliminary feasibility report would be discussed more fully at the November Commission meeting. He encouraged the Commissioners to read the document ahead of that meeting. The document is organized with an executive summary, an overall community profile, a description of the preliminary feasibility visit and what was done, findings covering six different topics, a summary and the recommendations. Starting on page 46 are the appendices that include a bio, a description of all the process steps, a

recommendation to move forward with an arts market survey, and a description of five local projects.

Calling attention to the findings overview in the executive summary, Mr. MacDonald highlighted the three main strategies outlined by Artspace to create affordable space. He noted that the strategies were not specific to an artist housing development. He said they see a need for some sort of Artspace model live/work project that includes affordable housing, but they also believe the city should adopt new or expand the existing developer incentives to encourage creative spaces at below market rate rents in private developments. They also recognized the opportunity in Bel-Red with the Bel-Red look back. At the public meetings and the focus groups there was a consistent chorus of arts organizations and businesses wanting to see shared use or collaborative space, so Artspace included that as a strategy.

The executive summary includes a list of potential sites. Artspace highlighted the OMFE site across from the Spring District in Bel-Red as a great opportunity and also mentioned Wilburton as a great opportunity. The 130th station site does not yet have enough built for Artspace to buy in for a project, though it could be a good location in the future.

The high-level recommendations in the executive summary include conducting an arts market study, including a general survey of the artist community up to 15 miles from Bellevue. Artspace works from the premise that for every three artists indicating they would like to see an arts development, one artist is a potential occupant. The goes for those wanting studio space. For a typical project with between 70 and 100 live/work units, 210 to 300 artists must indicate an interest.

Mr. MacDonald said the next scope of work will see to answer some specific market demand questions, including what type of artist will the project serve, and what artists can afford to pay for studio workspace. He said the city of Tacoma also had a feasibility study done along with a market survey and a developer used the data collected to create an affordable housing development that includes setting aside six of the 14 units for creatives. A second development is currently in the planning phase.

Page 28 of the report includes a long list of different funding mechanisms. Mr. MacDonald drew attention to page 31 and the list of financing partners Artspace has worked with for their Seattle projects. While some of the partners are specific to Seattle, the majority are regional organizations or businesses. From 43 on, the report outlines a more in-depth summary of the Artspace recommendation.

Mr. MacDonald suggested that the report is really positive for Bellevue. There are still questions to be answered going forward, in particular who should have the large advocacy role for getting a project developed. The suggestion is made in the report that a core group be created that is outside of the city that could be comprised of someone from the Commission, different stakeholders, and community representatives who are tied into the arts. The message highlights the comments made that arts teachers cannot afford to live in the community in which they work, and that is something that should be addressed in the arts market survey and by any future development.

Answering a question asked by Chair Manfredi, Mr. MacDonald said at the time the Mt. Baker project in Seattle was done there was an arts market survey conducted. At that time they had a thousand people on the wait list. The arts market survey cannot be skipped even if a demonstrated need can be shown, in part because of doubts that Seattle-based artists would be willing to move to Bellevue. If the arts market survey goes ahead, it will yield valuable information and make it possible to better connect with more artists in the community.

Commissioner Malkin asked if the Artspace recommendation includes expanding the focus to include other areas on the Eastside such as Kirkland, Redmond and Renton to identify artists that might be willing to move into Bellevue. Mr. MacDonald said Artspace looks at what they call a region, which typically is up to 50 miles out. For Bellevue that covers a huge territory which in terms of travel time alone is untenable.

Commissioner Wolfeich asked what the usual criteria is for approving artists for live/work units. He asked if the artists must making a living specifically from their art. Mr. MacDonald said the artists must have an income that qualifies them for affordable housing, which for Artspace is no more than 60 percent of the area median income. The income does not have to be derived solely from art, but the artists must be able to demonstrate that they are committed to actively pursuing their creative art form. The definition of what constitutes an artist is quite broad and can include culinary artists and those in the healing arts.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS

Mr. Heim informed the Commissioners about opportunities for site reviews on October 6 and 7.

6. REPORTS

- A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports – As Noted
- B. Project Updates from Staff – As Noted

7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

- A. Written Correspondence – As Noted
- B. Information – As Noted
 - i. Committees

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Manfredi adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Action & Discussion

Action and Discussion

Tuesday, November 07, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 pm

Bellevue Arts Commission
Action and Discussion

Presentations by organizations

The Arts Commission had requested Arts Program staff to invite organizations receiving grant funding through the Eastside Arts Partnerships and Special Projects funding programs to present at commission meetings. At today's meeting representatives from organizations are scheduled to present on their grant funded activities: Evergreen Association of Fine Arts; Music Works Northwest; Northwest Sound; Seattle International Film Festival; Tasveer; and Village Theatre. The grant awards are as follows:

ORGANIZATION	ARTISTIC SERVICES & PUBLIC BENEFIT	REQUEST Operating Budget	2017 ALLOCATION
Evergreen Association of Fine Arts	For free monthly meetings at Bellevue Community College open to the public at which well-known artists give lectures and demonstrations.	\$4,000 OpB: \$20,595 19.4% of OpB	\$1,000 4.9% of OpB 25% of request
Music Works Northwest	For free tickets to Music Works In Concert performances and additional community concerts and outreach events, targeting low-income youth, seniors and the disabled.	\$15,000 OpB: \$1,168,616 1.3% of OpB	\$10,000 .9% of OpB 67% of request
Northwest Sound Men's Chorus	Strawberry Festival and Sing! Sing! Sing! 2017 6 weeks of FREE Singing lessons to men of all ages in the community of Bellevue, Washington.	\$2,000 PB: \$2,000 100% of PB	\$0 0% of PB
Seattle International Film Festival*	For a 14-day film festival at Lincoln Square, with 40 screenings of international films, visits from 15 filmmakers, and numerous educational opportunities at local schools.	\$20,000 OpB: \$119,000 16.8% of OpB	\$5,000 4.2% of OpB 83.3% of request
Tasveer*	For Tasveer Reels, 10 monthly film screenings with community engaging public program at Bellevue Arts Museum, with 200 free tickets for low-income youth and seniors.	\$8,000 OpB: \$16,000 50% of OpB	\$1,000 6.3% of OpB 12.5% of request
Village Theatre*	For Village Theatre's Piped Piper Educational Program, which will serve approximately 6,232 Bellevue students in grades K-6 with professional touring theatre productions and in-school workshops.	\$10,000 OpB: \$114,349 8.7% OpB	\$6,500 5.7% of OpB 65% of request

Action and Discussion

Tuesday, November 07, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 pm

Bellevue Arts Commission
Action and Discussion

Final Grand Connection Art and Cultural Element

At today's meeting staff will present the final Grand Connection Art and Cultural Plan document to the Commission for endorsement.

ACTION

Endorse the Grand Connection Art and Cultural Plan, and encourage the City Council to adopt it.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Comprehensive Plan

Urban Design and the Arts

UD-5. Support community efforts to develop art that enhances neighborhood character, builds community, and engages residents in the artistic process.

UD-13. Support and encourage art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding, and respect among the city's diverse population.

UD-14. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.

UD-17. Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.

UD-18. Expand the city's public art collection and involve the community in the selection of new major items.

UD-19. Support artists and arts groups working in the community through city programs and private partnerships.

Economic Development

ED-14. Recognize the economic development benefits of city and private sector investments in urban amenities like arts and culture, open space and recreational facilities, and high quality urban design. Strengthen the city's assets in these areas as an explicit component of the city's economic development strategy.

ED-22. Support efforts that promote tourism, hotel, retail and arts businesses.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

PA-8. Develop partnerships with other public agencies and the private sector to provide parks, open space, and cultural and recreation facilities in the city

PA-11. Encourage privately funded recreational and cultural facilities throughout the city, especially in major employment centers.

PA-16. Designate active and passive recreation uses and cultural use of parkland through the master plan approval process.

PA-19. Provide opportunities for individuals to develop a sense of community through services and programs including programs that encourage intercultural interaction.

PA-21. Use parks to celebrate, promote and preserve Bellevue's history, cultural arts and local heritage when consistent with the park's design and programming.

PA-25. Promote partnerships with public and private service providers to meet cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.

BACKGROUND

The goal of the Grand Connection Art and Cultural Element is to develop a vision for art and culture in the Grand Connection project consistent with the overall project vision. Through the cultural planning work of SuttonBeresCuller, the artist consultants on the project, the document identifies interesting and exciting opportunities for public art and cultural programs along the Grand Connection route and a strategy for achieving the vision consistent with the City's cultural policies. These policy themes are roughly:

- **Urban Design and the Arts:** Support, encourage, and expand art and cultural opportunities that build community identity and engagement, especially in our urban centers;
- **Economic Development:** Strengthen and arts businesses and cultural amenities that support the City's economic development strategy; and
- **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space:** Promote partnerships to meet additional cultural needs.

Cultural Planning Process

SuttonBeresCuller led the cultural planning process in collaboration with Grand Connection Project staff and Arts Program staff. They conducted a cultural resource survey, on-site interviews, interviews with nine stakeholder groups, and an online survey with over 200 participants. The Arts Commission provided feedback at multiple points in the project. A draft plan was made available on July 12th, 2017, for public comment. No comments were collected, and the final document is unchanged from that time.

TIMELINE	MILESTONE	PHASE
July 20, 2016	Project initiation	1 Site investigation
Aug-Sept	Site visits, inventory & design concept review	
October 4	Arts Commission vision workshop	2 Community engagement & needs assessment
Jan 5, 2017	Complete stakeholder interviews	
January 10	Complete grand connection arts and culture survey	3 Plan development
January 12	Draft Framework: vision, goals and themes	
March 7	Draft Opportunities	
May 2	Draft Action Plan	
July 12 - Oct	Public comment period	4 Adoption & implementation
November 7	Final Arts and Cultural Plan endorsement - Commission	
December 11	Final Grand Connection Vision approval - Council	

FRAMEWORK

Vision: The Grand Connection becomes a Cultural Corridor

The Grand Connection is one of the most ambitious, comprehensive efforts to date that aims to establish Downtown Bellevue as a place to encounter cultural exchange, innovative immersive art experiences, music, and performance. It serves as a connector as well as destination: a creative spine in the core of the city that draws a public audience—both casual passersby and visitors seeking a community-driven experience. At the core of this vision is the belief that Bellevue's public art should be an integral part of the city that excites and promotes dialogue across cultural and generational lines. The Grand Connection reflects the City of Bellevue's diverse identity and an investment in contemporary public art and culture on par with the world's most innovative cultural centers.

Goals

- The Grand Connection is an easily identifiable, clearly defined pedestrian route along which visitors will encounter an array of vibrant art, performance, cultural objects and experiences.
- Bellevue has a proud and visible identity as an arts and cultural community that embraces regional artists as a unique and vital resource.
- The Grand Connection provides a platform for cultural inclusivity, further establishing downtown Bellevue as a space that welcomes and sustains diversity, reflecting the community's rich, continually evolving population.
- Downtown Bellevue is connected by seven new major public artworks along the Grand Connection route. The area is remapped and redefined as a cohesive cultural zone that emphasizes pedestrian experience, responds to the natural landscape, and reflects the varied cultures of the community.
- The Grand Connection creates a sustainable and flexible platform for public art that allows the City of Bellevue to dedicate operational resources and staff to the ongoing development of a cultural corridor for decades to come.

Strategies

1. Implement a whole site approach.
2. Create multiple sites along the route that are dedicated as platforms and placeholders for the ongoing creation and presentation of new works.
3. Identify specific opportunities to address cultural, historical and community-driven projects.
4. Build and reinforce distinct neighborhood identities along the route.
5. Use art and cultural programming to enhance the pedestrian experience
6. Forge partnerships between artists, government, the private sector and cultural organizations.
7. Provide economic incentives and development opportunities for the support of local artists and cultural organizations.
8. Initiate a public relations program to communicate, educate and engage the public.
9. Implement a program that supports a wide range of art projects, which in turn fosters community interaction.

ACTION PLAN

Developing a vibrant cultural corridor will need a combination of major and minor investments in people, programs, public art, and publicity. Big Moves are major opportunities that will set the architecture of the cultural corridor and are priorities in the short and long term. First Moves are designed as tactical interventions to quickly express the possibilities of the cultural corridor without significant resources.

Big Moves

Adopt This Plan This plan represents a bold vision for how art and culture can be integrated into the future of the Grand Connection and integral to its success.

Grand Connection Arts Program A new standalone arts program will create the framework for partners to collaborate to foster a lively, year-round arts scene. This comprehensive yet flexible program will coordinate partnerships, new programs and joint marketing for arts and events along the route.

City View Gateway & Plaza Create a unique entrance to the Grand Connection with a large sculptural work and plaza marking the starting point of cultural corridor. This area also provides great opportunities for dramatic views of the downtown Bellevue skyline.

Incubator and Cultural Arts Facility The purpose of this facility is to create a home for Bellevue's arts and innovation community and provide space for inexpensive offices, a flat-floor public assembly space for 100 to 250 people, independent retail, and a public outdoor area that energizes Wilburton. This space can house artists, multicultural performances, non-profits, pop-up retail, and entrepreneur meetups, among many civic uses.

Transit Center Roof The roofline of the Bellevue Transit Center is a defining feature of the civic center. Artists could illuminate both the interior and exterior of the Transit Center with color and lighting elements that change and respond to the season and important community events in the civic plaza.

The Lights at Compass Plaza As Compass Plaza redevelops, a new signature sculpture will anchor this public space as a year-round, 18 hour a day cultural destination. An artwork that incorporates light and innovative materiality will add to its urban character and could be integrated into the surrounding buildings on the plaza edge or within the public space.

Bellevue Way Beacon Bellevue's signature art institution – the Bellevue Arts Museum – and event – Snowflake Lane – are located at the corner of Bellway Way and NE 6th Street. A new signature sculpture at the entrance to Bellevue Square Mall will reinforce the cultural importance of this location.

The NE 6th Street Canopy As a vital link between the Bellevue Connection and Compass Plaza to the east and Bellevue Arts Museum and Bellevue Square Mall to the West, an artist-designed canopy will turn the current "pass-through" into a signature promenade.

Downtown Park Gateway Design, fabricate, and install a permanent sculptural tower or gateway to Downtown Park to create a significant entrance to the park at the intersection of NE 4th and Bellevue Way. The gateway should serve as a welcoming beacon to the park as well as a recognizable landmark.

Main Street Fountain Phase II of Meydenbauer Bay Park will develop 100th Ave NE beginning at Main Street. A large sculpture or artist designed fountain integrated into the streetscape or park at the intersection of Main Street and 100th Ave NE will provide the visual cue to pedestrians and visitors that there is water and more to see around the corner.

First Moves

Bellwether 2018 Reimagine Bellwether as an annual 10-day curated multi-disciplinary exhibition and festival that explores the theme of connection as laid out in the Grand Connection Vision Plan. Use the program to lay the foundations of a new Grand Connection Arts Program including new cultural plinths at Downtown Park, partnerships for a new mural program along the Garden Hill Climb, and joint programming with the Bellevue Arts Museum ARTSFair at NE 6th Street.

Eastside Rail Corridor Connection Claim the cultural corridor with Big Top Grand Stand by SuttonBeresCuller installed at future plaza site for inspiration and testing. Temporarily activate this space with a large, colorful, highly visible work viewable from civic center area. Host small events targeted to area businesses, residents, and workers with the aim of community building and collaboration.

Civic Center Collaborate with Meydenbauer Center to develop The Stoop and programming specific to the Grand Connection within the lobby. Expand Storefronts program at Meydenbauer Center to utilize all of the windows and doors from the parking garage to the corner of NE 6th and 112th NE.

Compass Plaza & Garden Hill Climb Integrate an artist into design team to develop the Art Crosswalk at 106th Avenue. Colorful artistic treatments will enhance Bellevue's identity as a fun, dynamic pedestrian friendly destination.

Street As Plaza Pilot the 6th Street Market concept as a cultural plinth by hosting the Bellevue Arts Museum ARTS Fair on Bellevue Way and NE 6th Street.

Downtown Park Integrate artists into design team of NE 4th Street entry plaza project for the Downtown Park Gateway and raised-intersection at NE 4th Street and Bellevue Way. Commission a temporary summer pavilion at the "Setts" for Bellwether 2018.

Main Street Plaza & Meydenbauer Bay Park Develop the Main Street Program with performances and evening art walks in collaboration with merchants and property owners to activate the neighborhood for the Bellwether Program.

Short term moves: 2018 – 2020

Explore program partnerships with the King County Library Regional Library's new maker-space for an Emerging Artist Program and with merchants and property owners along the route for evening art walks. Make upgrades to NE 6th between Bellevue Way and 106th Ave NE to be activated as a festival street including replacing the sidewalk art installation, adding light pole installations and new wayfinding. Develop and support an artist community in Wilburton by opening an arts incubator at Lincoln Center.

Mid-term: 2021 – Ongoing

Refresh Compass Plaza as it redevelops by replacing Bellgate and City Within A City artworks with a major new signature light-based artwork and temporary artist designed canopies. Partner with Bellevue Square to commission a new major sculpture to act as beacon at the Bellevue Way and NE 6th Street entrance. Commission artistic treatments west of I-405 including along the columns and guideway of future light rail crossing, a cultural plinth and community hub at the redeveloped Lincoln Center Property for events and performances, and a signature gateway artwork at ERC connection to act as entryway to the Grand Connection.

Action and Discussion

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 pm

Bellevue Arts Commission
Action and Discussion

Artspace Preliminary Feasibility Study

SUMMARY

Following direction from the Comprehensive Plan, other planning efforts, and as a mitigative measure to the issues of affordable space for the arts and the establishment of BelRed as an Arts District, the City of Bellevue contracted with Artspace Consulting to conduct an Artspace Preliminary Feasibility Study to develop an initial project concept for and assess the feasibility of an affordable arts facility, and to develop recommendations for how to create additional affordable space for the arts. Beyond establishing a community need to affordable space for the arts and additional goal for the project was to work to establish the BelRed Arts District.

DISCUSSION

At today's meeting, the Arts Commission will be asked to respond to the presented strategies for creating affordable space identified in the Artspace Preliminary Feasibility Study Report and will be asked to respond to key questions that emerged out of this work.

BACKGROUND

This effort followed direction from the Comprehensive Plan, the BelRed Subarea Plan, other planning efforts (see final pages of this agenda item for specific policy details), background information about Bellevue and its arts community, demographics, potential site areas, the Affordable Housing Strategy and local, county, and state affordable housing financing mechanisms, and other ongoing or planning projects focused on the creative, arts, and cultural communities. As part of this work, city staff organized for Artspace a series of focus groups with over 60 stakeholders including artists and arts organizations, civic leadership, finance and funding affordable housing and arts facilities, and creative businesses. Additionally, a public meeting was held and over 60 people from the community and the region attended. Broad support for a potential Artspace-model project was voiced at the focus groups and at the public meeting.

This initial contract with Artspace was the first half of the process to establish a community need. The second phase of the feasibility work, if exercised, includes an Arts Market Survey that will identify specific elements of a potential development including, what mix of live/work and other uses to be incorporated, the recommended type and size of a future affordable arts facility, preferred locations of a facility for artists and arts organizations, and shared, organizational or community space needs.

COMMUNITY NEED: CREATING AFFORDABLE SPACE FOR THE ARTS

Artspace developed three strategies for Bellevue to consider that would support the creation of additional affordable space for the arts. These strategies were developed based off of community input of the over 120 attendees of the focus groups and public meeting, discussions with city staff, review of background materials developed for the project, Artspace's analysis of funding options for different project models and other elements.

Strategy A: Create an Artspace-model mixed-use facility that incorporates multiple types of creative space including live/work housing, working studios, shared space with specialized equipment, and creative business/commercial space.

Strategy A: Initial Project Concept

A 75-100 unit affordable live/work mixed-use facility that incorporates multiple types of creative space, including live/work housing working studios, shared space with specialized equipment, and creative business/commercial space, that would serve both individual artists and their families and creative businesses in Bellevue and elsewhere on the Eastside.

Artspace heard from many individual artists, organizations, and businesses looking for space to live, work, practice and present. From the focus groups there was a strong desire to for facilities for collaboration spaces, organizational space, retail space, and art studios. From the public meeting, a large majority of attendees that made comments or asked questions expressed a desire for affordable live/work housing.

This strategy is reflective supportive of the Affordable Housing Strategy and policy in the Comprehensive Plan and the BelRed Subarea Plan. See the concluding section of this agenda item, “Supportive Planning and Policy Direction,” for specific Affordable Housing Strategies, Comprehensive Plan policy (UD-14, UD-15, UD-20, ED-11, LU-30, HO-18) and BelRed Subarea Plan policy (S-BR-41, S-BR-44, S-BR-45, S-BR-48) direction supporting Strategy A for affordable space for the arts.

Strategy A: Next Steps

- Refine the project concept, per Arts Market Study or similar study results.
- Meanwhile, discuss priority areas of opportunity and agree upon two potential sites. It is recommended that one of these be Sound Transit’s OMFE site, and that the City begin the process to influence the language in the RFP immediately. The other to possibly pursue is the Wilburton Lincoln Center City-owned site. It is important to note that many city or publicly-owned properties within the potential site areas have differing scheduling pressures. For example, Sound Transit is working quickly to release a RFP for its OMF-E site across from the Spring District. The City would need to act soon to influence the RFP to promote the inclusion of an affordable arts development. Without the completion of the Arts Market Survey, there isn’t enough data to show that this need exists yet.

King County has set aside \$10 million for affordable housing within TOD areas in BelRed. Because of this potential funding, developing an affordable artist live/work development in BelRed may be easier without a substantial contribution from either the City or private philanthropy.

- By September 2017, identify a leader or leaders in the creative community to form an artist advisory group that can help engage the creative community in a future market survey, participate in development/design process, and serve in an advocacy role. Add more artist/creative business voices to the Core Group and the conversation in general, as well as representatives of culturally distinct arts organizations and members of new immigrant communities/communities of color.

Strategy B: Adopt/expand developer incentives to encourage carve-outs of below-market rate creative spaces in private developments.

Incentive systems provide increased floor area in exchange for specific public amenities provided by a development. Current incentives in Bellevue’s Land Use Code for performing arts and other art elements included in the different incentive systems for specific neighborhoods are rarely used.

Strategy B: Next Steps

The Report lists (pgs. 19-21) several incentives to consider for inclusion in the Land Use Code. The incentive systems for Wilburton, BelRed, and Downtown are either currently being developed or are scheduled to be reviewed.

- Wilburton: The Wilburton CAC is currently developing recommendations for a proposed rezone of the Wilburton Special Opportunity Area. Incentives supporting “carve-outs of below-market rate creative space” could be proposed as part of this effort.
- BelRed: Incentives supporting “carve-outs of below-market rate creative space” could be proposed as part of the BelRed “Look Back”. The “Look Back” is scheduled to begin early 2018.
- Downtown: With adoption of the Downtown Livability Initiative’s revisions to the Bellevue Land Use Code in October of 2017, changes to the incentive system will need to wait for the planned review, mandated to take place after 5-7 years following adoption. There are new incentives for performing arts spaces, neighborhood serving uses (community meeting rooms, non-profits), and a flexible amenity that could be used to create affordable space for the arts. There is also an exemption of 1.0 Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for inclusion of affordable housing.

Strategy C: Curate a shared space collaborative for creative commercial enterprises and nonprofit arts-related organizations.

Bellevue Creative Edge and the creative businesses focus group with Artspace identified a strong desire for more affordable space for organizational needs, collaboration or co-working space, and retail for new or arts businesses.

Strategy C: Next Steps

- Refine the project concept, per Arts Market Study results, and the Bellevue Diversity Institute Program, and Bellevue Creative Edge strategies developed in 2018.

KEY QUESTIONS RAISED BY WORK TO DATE

Is the vision of BelRed as an Arts District viable?

Artspace felt that the 130th area was a long way off from being able to attract artists to the area. With so much change planned, it is difficult to visualize and attract additional artists. More needs to be done to create a vision and strategies to realize the BelRed Arts District if it is going to be a reality. During the focus groups used to scope upcoming items to review as part of the BelRed “Look Back”, participants regularly felt that the Arts District was important but they saw no sign physical sign of it within the area.

There are many ways to create or cultivate an arts or cultural district. These strategies typically differ depending on whether an arts or cultural district is either natural or planned. A natural arts or cultural district occurs because non-profits, arts organizations and artists congregate in a defined area. A planned arts and cultural district is typically created by a city to support economic development or revitalization of an area. Artists, arts organizations and non-profits are often incentivized to locate in a planned arts and cultural district. The BelRed Arts District, with a number of artists and arts organizations working in the area, but without the critical mass seen in a natural arts and cultural district, is really somewhere in between the two models. Unique strategies will need to be developed to realize the BelRed Arts District.

Next Steps: The BelRed “Look Back” will test out the assumptions of the BelRed Arts District and, if viable, work to create strategies to realize it. The community may want the BelRed Arts District as is proofed by the

originally designation by the area and the recent follow-up focus groups, but feedback from artists and arts organizations about the BelRed Arts District is sometimes conflicting.

How do artists and arts organizations in Bellevue and around the region want to be connected to the arts community?

The Artspace Preliminary Feasibility Study focus groups and public meeting showed a desire of artists and arts organizations to be connected to their peers. Some participants wanted to connect through a live/work or art studio development, while others talked about shared space, open studios, and a need for presentation and practice space. Clearly, Bellevue doesn't have a central point for artists to connect with each other.

Next Steps: The Arts Market Survey and the Bellevue Diversity Institute Program could be opportunities to better understand how artists want to connect to the arts community. However, even though these programs will help inform a potential answer to this question, additional ongoing engagement will most likely be needed.

How do artists, non-profits, and creative businesses define affordability?

Affordability differs drastically from artist to artist, non-profit to non-profit and business to business. The question of affordability can't be discussed in isolation from other tradeoffs that drive decision making, such as location, local amenities, and other elements.

Next Steps:

- An Arts Market Survey or similar study will work to establish what artists and arts organizations feel is affordable, what amenities are important to them and where they might be interested in living.
- Analyze strategies and findings from the Bellevue Creative Edge and Bellevue Diversity Institute Program projects.

SUPPORTIVE PLANNING AND POLICY DIRECTION

Comprehensive Plan 2015

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan is the city's foundational policy document that guides growth and development for the next twenty years. Development of the update to the Comprehensive Plan began in 2013 and adopted by City Council in 2015. Throughout this multiyear process, community input drove the policy changes through a series of focus groups, open houses, online forums, and multiple reviews of proposed policies by all the City's Boards and Commission and City Council. Arts and Cultural policies are spread throughout many of the elements in the plan. Following are some of the policies that continue to guide work around support for the arts and affordable space for the arts.

Urban Design + the Arts Element

UD-13. Support and encourage art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding, and respect among the city's diverse population.

UD-14. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.

UD-15. Support and encourage the development of a wide array of cultural facilities throughout the city and the Eastside through local and regional strategies.

UD-19. Support artists and arts groups working in the community through city programs and private partnerships.

UD-20. Support and encourage the development of affordable space for artists and arts groups to practice, create, teach, perform, and present their art.

Economic Development Element

ED-14. Recognize the economic development benefits of city and private sector investments in urban amenities like arts and culture, open space and recreational facilities, and high quality urban design. Strengthen the city’s assets in these areas as an explicit component of the city’s economic development strategy.

ED-22. Support efforts that promote tourism, hotel, retail and arts businesses.

Land Use Element

LU-30. Recognize the placemaking value of arts and cultural facilities and work to site them throughout the city as a means to enhance neighborhoods.

Housing Element (many more policies not listed relate to the Artspace Preliminary Feasibility Study)

HO-18. Promote working partnerships with housing developers to help create a variety of housing types in the community.

HO-28. Explore all available federal, state, and local programs and private options for financing affordable housing.

HO-30. Ensure that all affordable housing created in the city with public funds or by regulation remains affordable for the longest possible term.

HO-32. Evaluate surplus city land for use for affordable housing.

Comprehensive Plan – BelRed Subarea Plan

The BelRed Subarea Plan describes the area as a unique cultural environment offering “a culture-rich environment unique to the Eastside with an arts district focusing on arts education and production. Public art and artists living and working in the area will add flavor to BelRed’s character. Open studios, art walks and artful expression in buildings and infrastructure will contribute to a lively sense of place.” While the original heart of the Arts District was conceived at 136th Place NE, with a boundary to this area unidentified, and has now been thought to be centered around the future 130th light rail station, the overall intent of the policies demonstrates dedicated support in the community for both affordable housing and the development of the BelRed Arts District. Changes to the BelRed Subarea Plan could take place during the BelRed “Look Back”, a scheduled review of the code and policy to start early 2018.

Arts and Culture

Goal: *To identify and realize opportunities to integrate arts and cultural works and attractions into BelRed.*

S-BR-44. Encourage artists, arts and cultural organizations, and arts related uses to locate in the Bel-Red area, capitalizing on proximity to existing arts uses and availability of suitable spaces. Encourage major arts and education institutions to locate in the Bel-Red area.

S-BR-45. Encourage the development of an arts/cultural district near 136th Place NE, as shown on the Bel-Red Land Use Plan map, Figure S-BR.1.

Discussion: This arts/cultural district would build upon existing arts and cultural uses, and expand out to include additional opportunities for arts education, rehearsal, performance, and production activities.

Land use incentives and public investments would be used to help achieve these outcomes.

S-BR-48. Promote flexible live and work space for artists in the Bel-Red area by encouraging the creation of live/work and work/live units, in adaptive reuse of existing buildings or in new development.

S-BR-49. Encourage arts uses as appropriate transitional uses for existing buildings or areas, as Bel-Red evolves over time.

Housing:

Goal: *To encourage BelRed redevelopment to result in a diversity of housing types and prices, including a significant share of “workforce housing”.*

S-BR-40. Encourage a diversity of housing types, from high density, multistory housing in transit nodes, to medium density housing outside nodes, to other innovative housing forms, such as live/work and work/live units.

S-BR-41. Promote owner and rental affordability in Bel-Red’s new housing stock, with a policy target that 50% of new units be affordable for households earning 120% of median income or less. This overall target should include 10 to 20% of new units affordable to low income households (those earning up to 50% of area median income), another 10 to 20% of new units affordable to moderate income households (those earning up to 80% area median income), and another 10 to 20% affordable as an additional segment of “workforce housing” (for households earning up to 120% of median income). These targets will be addressed through a combination of development regulations and incentives, public investments, and other public and private strategies, such as employer-assisted housing and short-term property tax exemptions for multi-family housing.

Affordable Housing Strategy

The Affordable Housing Strategy was developed as a roadmap for both keeping more people in their existing homes and to create more affordable workforce housing. The strategy report includes implementation strategies intended to meet these goals. Of these, an Artspace-model project would work towards achievement of Strategy C: Create More Affordable Housing - increase the amount of housing affordable to people at lower and moderate-income levels.

Strategy C actions help those at less than 30% AMI, such as a hotel worker, those at 30% - 50/60% AMI, such as a dental assistant, and those 50/60% - 80% AMI, such as a teacher. Most artists often have incomes between 30% and 60% AMI. In King County, Area Median Income (AMI) for a family of 4 is \$90,300 (2016). To be eligible to live in an Artspace-model project or other project receiving Low Income Affordable Housing Credits, an artist with a family of four would need to make \$54,180 or less in income. A single artist would be eligible with an income of \$37,926 or less. At this income level, rent would be approximately \$948 including gas and electric for a studio apartment. According to the Affordable Housing Strategy Report, “average apartment rents in west Bellevue and Downtown [are] at over \$2,000 monthly. Over one third of Bellevue renters are paying more than 30% of their income for housing costs and one in six are paying more than 50% of their income.”

Action and Discussion

Tuesday, November 07, 2017
Meeting: 4:30 pm

Bellevue Arts Commission
Action and Discussion

Of Mice and Meng Exhibition Proposal

At today's meeting staff will present a proposal titled, *Of Mice and Meng: The Art and Life of Meng Huang*, to be displayed at Bellevue City Hall from February 16, 2018 through December 31, 2018. The Arts Commission will be asked to endorse the proposal as presented.

ACTION

Endorse the exhibition proposal, *Of Mice and Meng*, for display at Bellevue City Hall.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Comprehensive Plan

UD-14. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.

UD-17. Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.

Bellevue Art Collection Mission Statement

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.

Diversity Advantage Plan

Cultural Competence in the Community-2. Support and produce special events, art exhibits and performances, educational materials, festivals and public information that increase opportunities for cultural interaction and education.

Cultural Competence in the Community-10. Coordinate with local community groups and organizations dedicated to issues of diversity and culture.

BACKGROUND

Bellevue City Hall has been a prominent venue for art and the activities of the arts program since opening in 2006. The Arts Program has used City Hall for the indoor portion of the biennial Bellwether exhibition, as well as intermittent exhibitions such as the 2015 Asian Pacific American month exhibition. Staff propose a new annual exhibition program aimed at turning Bellevue City Hall into a consistent cultural forum with a focus on the newly adopted themes of Bellevue Art Collection (above) and relevant art portions of the City's Diversity Advantage Plan (above). This exhibition is proposed as a pilot to test the new annual exhibition program idea, budget assumptions, project timeline, and partnership agreement with local arts and community groups as a main feature of the production process.

MAIN COMPONENTS

- Exhibition at Bellevue City Hall, February 16 – December 31, 2018
- Opening reception and potential Lunar New Year Celebration on February 16, 2018
- Other public programs TBD
- Catalogue of artworks
- Partnership with Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience
- Partnership with UW Museum Studies Certificate Program

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

Of Mice and Meng: The Art and Life of Meng Huang explores the art and life of Meng Huang and the friendships that impacted his innovative art practice. The late Chinese immigrant (1924–2001) patrolled Seattle’s International District neighborhood for trash that he reshaped, origami-like, into fanciful masks and dragons. Huang was known as a classic self-taught outsider artist, using found objects such as coat hangers, plastic jugs, and Styrofoam takeout containers, to fold into animals, demons, and toys. His back story is also classic: he had formed strong relationships with local artists who contributed to his artistic growth and success. His story of grit after a fresh start in America and the unlikely friendships he encountered along the way will resonate with many immigrants and artists alike. The exhibition also offers visitors the opportunity to see artwork about traditional subjects made from non-traditional materials.

Connections to Bellevue

Meng Huang (1924–2001) and local artist Linda Beaumont and her husband Steve Badanes were good friends and collaborators. Linda Beaumont created *Current*, the beautiful terrazzo floor at Bellevue City Hall. She and her husband befriended, mentored, and learned from Meng Huang in a decades long friendship. The idea behind this exhibition is to install Meng’s *Dragon* over Linda’s *Current* to call attention to how artistic creativity and inspiration flowed between these two artists. Now that Bellevue has become a city where more than 50 percent of its residents are non-white and over 30 percent are foreign born, we felt it timely to tell this story as an example of how inter-cultural collaboration can work in the arts.

“Oh, I would like to think I was part of the family of Meng Huang. I was first introduced to him by Steve and I knew him from 1994 until his death so there was this immediate heart-to-heart from watching his hands move with materials and his brain make us laugh just ridiculous for me to know, we were with a very, very special person. We couldn’t get enough of him. So we spent time with him in a variety of traveling places of far-reaches and then just right in his home with him. I think he was like ... he’s a master, and I can’t even say how in ways that I learned from him or felt from him but I would like to think I’m... we’re a family.”

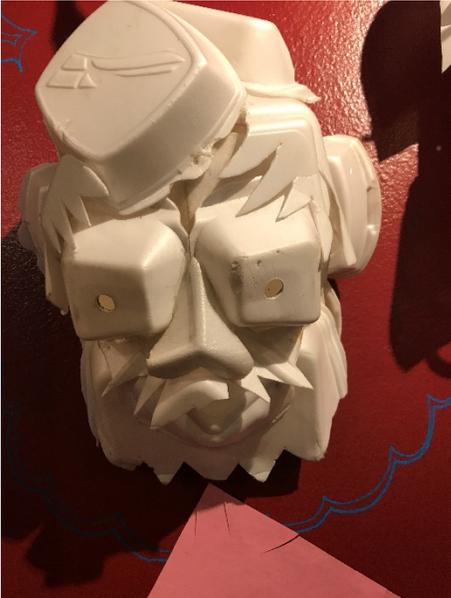
– Excerpt from an oral history of Linda Beaumont about Meng Huang, the collection of The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, 2010

Artworks on Display

The exhibition features artwork by Huang made from discarded construction material found throughout Seattle’s Chinatown International District. The focal point of the exhibition is 24-foot-long Chinese dragon made from repurposed five-gallon paint barrels, aluminum rain gutters, orange traffic cones, corrugated plastic milk cartons, Christmas decorations, plastic cutlery and toy parts. This piece would be on loan from the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. A collection of 10-20 masks of various animals and faces are also available made from similar materials. These pieces would be on long from the museum and private collectors.



Chinese Dragon



Masks

BUDGET	AMOUNT	NOTES
Curator	\$1,000	Prepare artwork and materials, write text, organize artist talk
Installation	\$2,500	Contractors, rentals, transportation
Materials	\$2,500	Vitrines, hanging systems, framing, etc.
Production	\$1,500	Audio-video, graphic design, photography, language translations
Printing	\$1,000	Text panels, brochures, posters, catalogues (?)
Marketing	\$500	Advertising
Public programs	\$500	Supplies
Refreshments	\$500	Opening reception, public programs
Total	\$10,000	

TIMELINE	MILESTONE		PHASE
August	Collections Review	}	Development
September	Display feasibility		
October	Collect information		
November	Collections review and loan agreements	}	Production
December	Exhibition design		
January	Prepare collections & exhibition materials		
Jan 29 – Feb 9	Artwork delivery and prep	}	Installation
Feb 12 - 15	Artwork Installation		
February 16	Exhibition Opens		
	Lunar New Year Celebration		
TBD	Public programs & tours		Community education

Quick Business

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Bellevue Arts Commission

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Reports

PROJECT UPDATES

PUBLIC ART

Bellwether 2018: Exhibition & Art Walk

No updates to report.

East Link Public Art

No updates to report.

Grand Connection

Update, November 11, 2017: An update will be provided at today's meeting.

Lattawood Park

No updates to report.

Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront Expansion

No updates to report.

Night Blooming Donation

No updates to report.

130th Streetscape Public Art

No updates to report.

Downtown Park Public Art

No updates to report.

Portable Art Collection

No updates to report.

Public Art Collection & Maintenance

No updates to report.

OTHER PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Artspace Affordable Housing Feasibility Study

Update, November 11, 2017: An update will be provided at today's meeting.

Bellevue Creative Edge

No updates to report.

Cultural Compass

No updates to report.

Funding, 2018

Update, November 7, 2017: The application period has closed. The Allocations Committee is reviewing applications and will provide funding recommendations at the December 5th meeting.

Power Up Bellevue

No updates to report.

Department of Planning and
Community Development

Information

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS AND SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENTS

Below are suggested committee assignments and project leads for 2017. If you have any questions or would like to swap an assignment, please discuss with Chair Paul Manfredi.

2017 Suggested Assignments

Executive committee

- Monthly Arts Commission Meetings, Paul Manfredi lead
- Budget One reporting
- 2017 Annual Meeting

Allocations committee

- Becky Lewis, lead
- Maria Lau Hui, lead on pilot capacity building program
- Carl Wolfteich

Public art group

- 130th Avenue in BelRed, Carl Wolfteich
- Lake Hills, Becky Lewis
- Lattawood Park, Philip Malkin
- Downtown Park, Paul Manfredi
- 2018 Bellwether, Trudi Jackson

Planning group

- Artspace Artist Housing Feasibility Study, Philip Malkin
- Creative Edge, Paul Manfredi
- Grand Connection and Wilburton Land Use Study, Maria Lau Hui