

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

April 1, 2014
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Tremblay, Commissioners Cole, Fateeva, Jackson, Ludeña, Malkin, Manfredi

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Scott MacDonald, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairperson Tremblay who presided. All Commissioners were present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manfredi and it carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the March 4, 2014, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Manfredi. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and it carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Tremblay introduced the Eastside Leadership Program's Bel-Red team members Ryan Hixenbaum, David Sander, Michele Boren-Downs, and Mike Ogliore. She noted that these members of the current Leadership Eastside Class came together to carry out their community project requirement. They picked as their topic the cultural development of Bel-Red after advice and initial assistance from Arts Specialist Mary Pat Byrne.

Mr. Ogliore thanked Ms. Byrne for steering the group towards this challenge and concluded that the Bel-Red area offered an opportunity to stimulate new activity in relation to the arts. The district is beginning a long-term process of change. One thing lacking in the corridor is a sense of community. The team found that the arts community has been operating in silos and the decision was made to address the need to create connections and a sense of community. The progress made in a very short amount of time has been heartening and hopefully it will continue for years to come. The forum scheduled for April 17 at the Bellevue Brewing Company represents a chance for the arts community to come together to share their ideas and views for the future.

Commissioner Jackson asked what the group's work product will be. Mr. Hixenbaum said the group has already done some incredible work, and a recent meeting with Chair Tremblay has added some new elements. Initially the intent was to establish and bring together a grassroots group of artists with a vested interest in the community and link them with groups like the Commission and others. The group believes it can bring to the table authentication of an arts district. The talent is evident among those who have been pulled together, as are their connections and their customer base. The meeting on April 17 will likely serve to revise the ultimate work product yet again.

Chair Tremblay said the format of the April 17 meeting should be focused on engaging people in the visioning process. John Robertson, owner of the Bellevue Brewing Company, will be hosting the event. Mr. Robertson has from the beginning wanted his business to be a home base for the Bel-Red corridor.

Ms. Byrne asked how many people from the Bel-Red corridor have been involved so far. Mr. Ogliore said the number of primary contacts is in the range of 30 to 40. The anticipation is the list will continue to grow.

Mr. Hixenbaum commented that people from other communities are starting to participate and they are saying the arts district in Bel-Red will not be only about Bellevue. They want to see a result that will be a draw beyond just the Eastside.

Ms. Byrne said the April 17 is shaping up to be a significant event. Councilmembers are planning to attend, as are representatives from Sound Transit, Wright Runstad, and others, in addition to Bel Red artists.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Arts Education Month Proclamation

Ms. Byrne said May has been proclaimed as Arts Education Month for the past two years. She said if the Commission votes to request that Council issue the proclamation, the Bellevue School District will be contacted to invite a board member to attend along with members of the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Jackson said the annual proclamation serves to strengthen the partnership with the Bellevue School District relative to the arts.

A motion to adopt a resolution supporting Arts Education Month in May and to recommend that the City Council proclaim May as Arts Education Month in Bellevue was made by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manfredi and it carried unanimously.

B. Cultural Compass Focus Groups Scheduling

Ms. Byrne said four focus groups have been arranged, each in a different part of the city and each at a different time of day. Each focus group has been assigned a different theme.

The Commissioners were shown the dates, times and places and were asked to identify which focus groups they would attend.

Chair Tremblay suggested the focus groups should be announced at the Bel-Red meeting on April 17. Ms. Byrne agreed that would be a good idea.

C. Bellwether Update and Jury Day Planning

Ms. Byrne reminded the Commissioners that jury day was scheduled for April 9. She said Arts Program Assistant Scott MacDonald has been working diligently to get everything ready. A disk of all the entries was provided to each Commissioner.

Ms. Byrne said the Commissioners are welcome to attend the jury's deliberations and reminded them of their role as observers. She invited the Commissioners to review the entries on the disk and send to her before April 9 the names of the artists that should be considered for the exhibition; those recommendations will be forwarded to the jurors who will respond as they wish. During the midday lunch break, the Commissioners will be free to visit with the jurors, but should avoid commenting on their choices.

Ms. Byrne said she has been talking with Tanja Bauman about boosting the marketing and public relations work for Bellwether. She explained that Ms. Bauman is a freelancer in the field of public relations and, before that, worked for a long time for the Bellevue Arts Museum.

Mr. MacDonald said a total of 80 artists submitted entries for the exhibition. Once the work of the jury is completed, the artists selected will be notified by April 18. In between there will be a technical review to identify safety and installation issues.

Ms. Byrne said the budget will accommodate 18 works indoors and 20 works outdoors, with some of the outdoor artworks at City Hall Plaza and some in the Downtown Park. The budget will also cover between five and eight installations. She said there were few submissions for installation proposals, so a backup plan has been developed whereby the runners up for the lamppost project will be contacted about participating.

Commissioner Malkin asked what the mix is of regional versus outside artists. Mr. MacDonald said the bulk of the artists are regional though there were submissions from artists from all over the US and Canada.

D. Photography by Hugo Ludeña

Commissioner Ludeña shared with the Commission samples of his work depicting cultural celebrations, primarily Mexican. He said his sports photographs will be the subject of a special show in September.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS

A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports

1. Livability CAC Update

Commissioner Jackson said the Committee is moving away from the education phase and has begun the process of making decisions. The City Council recently was provided with an update of the progress made by the Committee and some potential outcomes. Among the issues likely to become recommendations are higher building heights in the Downtown generally and particularly along the freeway. At the March 19 meeting of the Committee the focus was on the pedestrian corridor and public open space. The strategies discussed included extending the pedestrian corridor eastward to the edge of the freeway and potentially connecting to a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the freeway; whether or not developers should be required to provide weather protection along the corridor; how to integrate bicycles along the corridor; and how to better activate the corridor. With regard to public open spaces, the strategies discussed included the creation of unique areas within the various superblocks; connections through the superblocks that are well signed and welcoming to the public; and the creation of a green lid/park over I-405 connecting the downtown with the Wilburton area.

Commissioner Jackson said the final recommendations from the Committee will be forwarded to the Council for review, and the Council will then send the package to the Planning Commission to make the necessary revisions to the Land Use Code.

Commissioner Jackson observed that the developers who address the Committee at every meeting are clearly not all on the same page. They are united, however, in their desire for a flexible code. Parking has proved to be a controversial issue given that as the Downtown continues to urbanize and transit options increase, less overall parking will be needed, but that runs afoul of how to provide for the parking needs in the intervening years. There has been general agreement with regard to the need for green space.

2. East Link Artist Selection

Commissioner Malkin said the artist selection process is moving along well and is proving to be very interesting. Good feedback is being received from a variety of stakeholders on the panel.

Sound Transit said the artist roster was built by Sound Transit following an open call. More than 130 artists were added to the roster, and then Meta Arté categorized the artists by their strengths. As opportunities arise, artists with the right strengths are selected and presented to the panel to review.

Commissioner Jackson said she and Commissioner Malkin are serving on the artist selection committee that is focused only on the Downtown transit center. The two opportunities there involve the portal and the glass station wall that will face Meydenbauer Center.

Ms. Byrne noted that each Commissioner will have an opportunity to serve on an artist selection panel for East Link.

B. Staff Reports

1. Bridle Trails Public Art Images

Ms. Byrne shared with the Commissioners images of the Bridle Trails public art project *Homage*. She noted that the public had wanted an image of a horse at all three sites, but the panel concluded there should be something unique at each site, with each feeding back into the themes of unity in the neighborhood, love of nature, and love of the equestrian lifestyle. Photos of the three works, *Braid*, *Forest/from/Infinity*, and *"Double Horse,"* were shown along with views of where each has been installed.

Ms. Byrne said the opening ceremony will be slated for a Saturday in May.

2. Project Status Report

i. Facebook Gains, March 3-9

Ms. Byrne thanked Commissioner Ludeña for serving as an administrator for the Commission's Facebook page. She noted that within just a few days the friend count jumped from under 100 to over 300 thanks to his efforts.

Commissioner Ludeña said he tapped into his Facebook friends as well as friends in arts and culture circles and invited them all to join the Commission's page. He said he stressed the Commission's desire to embrace diversity.

ii. Commission Elections at May 6 Regular Meeting

Ms. Byrne noted that she had included the election rules on page 28 of the packet.

Commissioner Cole announced that she would be stepping down from the Commission because her family will soon be moving back east. She said it has been a privilege to be a part of the Commission and that the May meeting will be her last meeting.

- iii. *Bellevue Reporter*, February 24, 2014, Funding Approved - As Noted
- iv. Upcoming Agenda Items - As Noted
- v. Committees and Leads - As Noted
- vi. Cultural Compass Update Basics - As Noted
- vii. Public Art Program Budget Update - As Noted

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tremblay adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.