

ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC

2026 Arts Commission & Arts Program workplan information session.

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Community Development Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ONLY

At this meeting, staff will present information about the Arts Commission's and Arts Program's 2026 work plan. Arts Commission work items advance the Arts Commission's work and mission; staff work items are presented for context and workload awareness.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

History

The Arts Commission has regularly been presented with a general outline of the Arts Program's upcoming work plan in the new year. Historically, these presentations focused more on staff projects and programs than on the Commission's work. This year, the focus has been shifted to align more closely with the duties of the Arts Commission and presented within the Commission's Committee structure. A copy of the Arts Commission's Powers, Duties, and Limitations, as outlined in Bellevue City Code, is provided as an attachment.

Overview

For many of the items listed below, the Commission will receive informational updates, and staff may ask for Commissioner feedback as community representatives.

Committee	Topic Area	Work Item
Grants and Allocations Committee	2026 Project Grants	Oversight. Attending and monitoring projects and programs is encouraged.
Grants and Allocations Committee	2026 Eastside Arts Partnership Grants	Oversight. Attending and monitoring programs and ongoing operations is encouraged.
Grants and Allocations Committee	2072-2028 Cultural Facility Grants	Action. Review and recommend awards.
Grants and Allocations Committee	2027-2028 Eastside Arts Partnership Grants	Action. Review and recommend awards.
Grants and Allocations Committee	2027 Project Grants	Action. Review and recommend awards.

Public Art Committee	Grand Connection Crossing Art Plan and preliminary artwork	Information Only. Receive an update on the Grand Connection Crossing Art Plan and preliminary artwork design.
Public Art Committee	Creative Crosswalks	Information Only. Receive and update on new works of being installed as part of a Transportation Safety grant.
Public Art Committee	Gifts of Artwork	Action / As Needed. Review and make recommendations on any artwork intended as a gift to the city.
Public Art Committee	Portable Collection Art Show	Oversight. Attending and monitoring programs is encouraged.
Public Art Committee	Public Art Map	Discussion. Provide feedback and insights on public art maps, as well as guides for a City Hall artwork.
Public Art Committee	Utility Box Wraps Phase 3	Information Only. Receive updates on the third phase of Utility Box Wraps.
Public Art Committee	Jill Anholt Artwork “Rooted”	Information Only. Receive project and installation updates.
Public Art Committee	Emerging Artist Program	Information Only. Receive project updates on the next phase of the Emerging Artist Program.
Community Partnerships Committee	Letter to the Bellevue School Board regarding theater use	Action. Recommend to Council a letter to be sent to the Bellevue School Board regarding public use of school theaters.
Community Partnerships Committee	Meet with the BelRed Arts District	Information Only. Meet directly with the BelRed Arts District Community Alliance as this organization develops plans, programs, and cultural space.
Committee of the Whole	Partner Presentations	Information Only. Receive presentations from Arts and Culture Organizations relevant to the community.
Committee of the Whole	Cultural Planning launch	Action. Initiate a Cultural Planning process. This work will span multiple years.
Committee of the Whole	Community Feedback and Comments	Information Only. Serve as a place for the public to give feedback and comments about arts and culture in the community.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Arts Commission City Code and Bylaw Support

This item is presented to the Commission as it is supported by City Code 3.56.070. Item B. “Serve as the central commission to whom individuals and groups take their concerns and ideas with regard to the arts.”

Policy Impact

Work undertaken by the Arts Commission advances a wide range of Policies in the Comprehensive Plan. Some of the most relevant include:

UD-28. Catalyze the activation of BelRed Arts District as a unique destination focused on arts, culture, innovation and nightlife.

UD-29. Support the organization and visibility of the BelRed Arts District, increase the number of affordable creative spaces and foster connection and collaboration with the BelRed community in accordance with the BelRed Arts District Implementation Plan. UD-51. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.

UD-48. Cultivate public art that enhances neighborhood identity, builds community and engages the community in the artistic process.

UD-50. Cultivate art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding and respect among the city's diverse population.

UD-51. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.

UD-52. Provide for a wide array of arts and cultural facilities that serve the city and the Eastside.

UD-53. Support and encourage lifelong arts education for all skill levels.

UD-54. Expand the city's public art collection and involve the community in the selection of new major items.

UD-55. Support artists and arts groups working in the community through city programs.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing any of the items in this report outside of what is currently budgeted.

OPTIONS

1. N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- B. Arts Commission Duties, Powers, and Limitations