

Action

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Bellevue Arts Commission

1E-109 or Zoom Meeting, 4:30 pm

City of Bellevue, WA

Crossroads Park Public Art Final Design

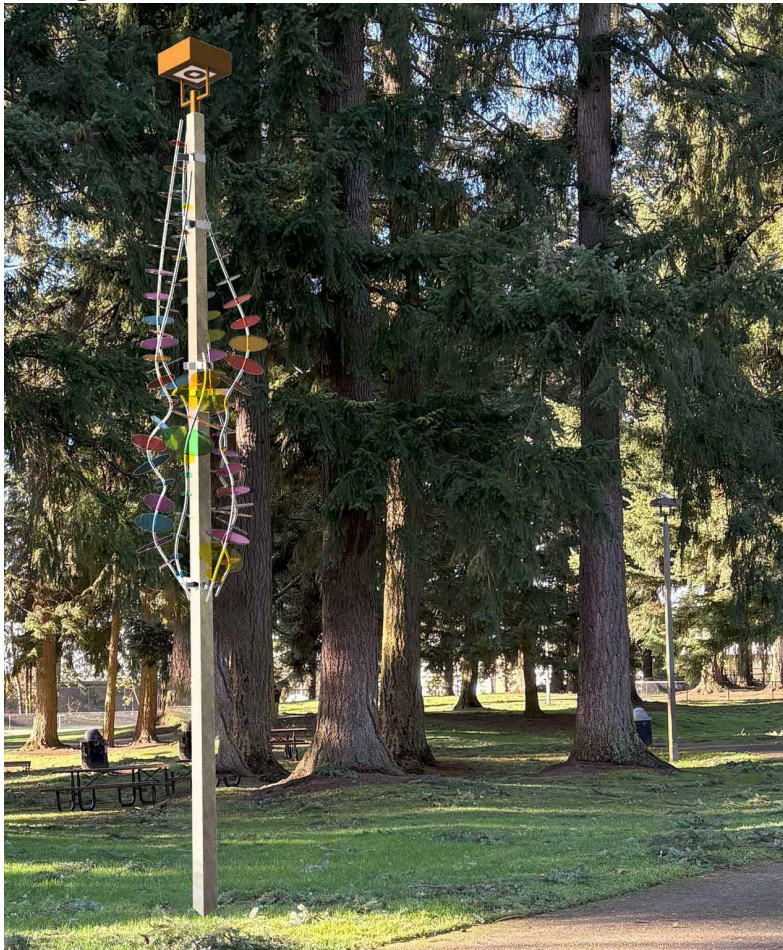
At today's meeting, staff will present final design plans for a public art project by artist Anna Mlasowsky planned for Crossroads Park. The commission will be asked for their recommendation to approve final design.

Motion: A motion to recommend the approval of final design of the Crossroads Park Public Art Project by Anna Mlasowsky.

Code and bylaw support: This item is presented to the Commission supported by the Bellevue City Code 3.56.70:

Item F. Develop recommendations for acquiring public artwork consistent with guidelines and priorities approved by city council.

Background



Anna Mlasowsky was selected by an artist selection panel to design, fabricate and install a new public artwork for Crossroads Park in late 2023. This project is a pilot project to test a possible ongoing program seeking to catalyze emerging artist's careers into the field of public art. This is done by specifically offering select opportunities to artists that haven't completed public art projects of a certain size previously but are able to demonstrate their ability in other ways (complexity of past projects, working in different materials, willingness to learn, etc), and by building a supportive program around the artists and their needs. Titled "Jumping Scale," this pilot project was envisioned for an artist to expand an existing body of work with a new piece at a much greater scale.

The project is made possible by an initial \$100,000 dedication from Amazon in 2021 with the goal of completing it by 2026. Additional funding has been secured to increase the budget to \$240,000 to allow for the artwork to be installed in three locations instead of the originally proposed one.

Upon Anna's selection, City staff hired artist Jill Anholt, currently working to create an artwork for BelRed, as a mentor to help Anna realize her artistic vision.

Anna presented her concept design of a glass and steel artwork, titled *River*, to be mounted on existing light poles in the park to the commission on September 4, 2024, where a motion was approved to endorse the artist's design. Since then, the artist has been working to refine the concept with a focus on how the work will be fabricated, installed and maintained. Additionally, the artist has been working with an engineer hired by the city for this project, RBHU, that has extensive experience engineering unique artworks.

The artwork, titled *River*, is described by the artist as *"a metaphor for a community sharing time. A river consists of many individual drops of water that form a body, time is moving that river past. The visual presentation of the artwork is an abstraction of a waveform recording of the phrase "It takes more than two to form a River". The pitch and frequency of the recording is translated into circular glass discs, each disc representing a single pitch, that strung together make up the words of the phrase. Each spine of the sculpture contains one part of the phrase's words."*

For additional details about the artwork, including the maintenance plan, please see Attachment A.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Anna Mlasowsky's final design for Crossroads Park by the Arts Commission. The artwork itself is beautiful and is believed to become a valuable asset for the community and the Park. Additionally, with the contribution by Amazon, acquiring this artwork comes at minimal expense to the city, expected maintenance is routine, and restoration of the artwork if damage occurs will be relatively inexpensive as individual glass rings can be removed.

Options

Option 1: Commission moves to recommend the approval of final design.

Option 2: Commission elects not to recommend the approval of final design.

Next Steps

If the Commission endorses final design, staff will amend the artist's contract to include specific details about the artwork and direct the artist to begin fabrication.

Attachments

Attachment A: Crossroads Park Final Design

Staff Contact

Scott MacDonald, Public Art Specialist
425-452-7897, smacdonald@bellevuewa.gov