

Information and Discussion

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Bellevue Arts Commission

1E-113 or Zoom Meeting, 4:30 pm

City of Bellevue, WA

Partner Presentations

At today's meeting, three Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) grant recipients will give short presentations about their organization and any upcoming events.

Code and bylaw support: This item is presented to the Commission as it is supported by City Code 3.56.070 item J: "Recommend priorities for funding and allocation of small grants to arts organizations based on eligibility and selection criteria approved by council," along with items B and E.

Background

Staff are piloting a program for the Arts Commission to be better informed about the organizations and events supported by the Commission. The presentations are voluntary for all 2025-26 EAP grant recipients. Staff reached out in February to open the opportunity up and received great success, with interested folks now scheduled through September. Today's meeting marks the beginning of this program, which will start with three organizations. Below are details about each grantee and their award for the 2025-26 cycle.

Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra (LWSO)

2025-26 Award: \$8,000 each year

LWSO Mission: To enrich and inspire our communities through performance, outreach and education.

Importance of Music: Music and arts programs help children with their cognitive development, social skills, emotional well-being, responsibility, and cultural awareness. For adults, music and art can help mental well-being, social connections, cultural enrichment, and cognitive function.



Remove the stigma of classical music: For LWSO, every concert is family-friendly. LWSO hosts an annual sensory-friendly Halloween concert and small ensembles at Redmond Saturday Market, Salmon on Sunset and KidsQuest Museum.

Upcoming event: Celebrating Women, Saturday, June 7, 3 PM at Bastyr University Chapel

Pacific Northwest Ballet (PNB)

2025-26 Award: \$9,000 each year

PNB Vision and Mission Statement: Enriching lives in the Pacific Northwest, considered a national treasure and acclaimed worldwide, PNB epitomizes excellence in the performing arts.

PNB's Guiding Principle: To inspire, engage, and educate through dance.

About the Executive Director: Ellen Walker is in her twenty-second season with Pacific Northwest Ballet. Executive Director since 2014, she manages an operating budget of \$30 million and more than 400 employees and led the 2017 relocation campaign to fund PNB School's Eastside location, the Francia Russell Center. She oversaw significant audience development initiatives as PNB's Director of Marketing & Communications from 2003 – 2014. Prior to joining PNB, Ms. Walker served as a marketing consultant and as Director of Marketing for Seattle Children's Theatre. Before stepping into her latest role, she served on the faculty for Seattle University's MFA Arts Leadership program. Ms. Walker is Vice President of the Inspire Washington board and is a board member and council chair of Dance/USA. In 2021, she was named one of Puget Sound Business Journal's Women of Influence. Ms. Walker is from Seattle, Washington and attended the University of Washington and Trinity College, Dublin.

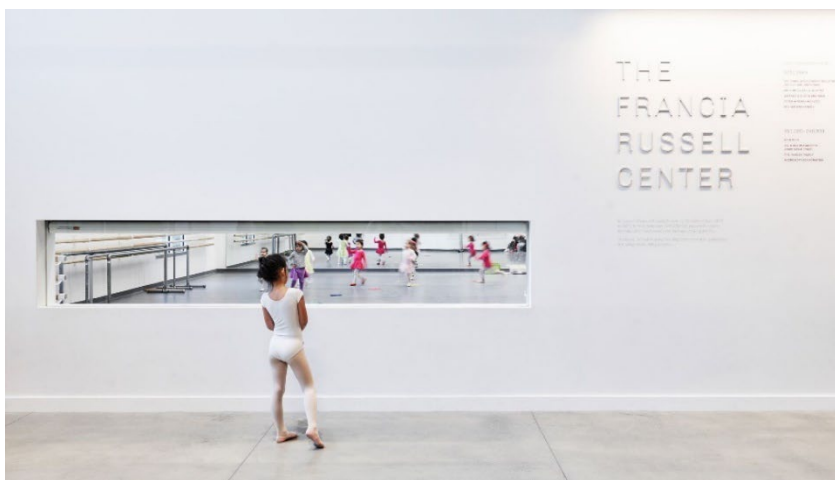


PNB by the numbers:

- The fifth largest ballet company in North America by budget size – 48 dancers
- 200,000+ constituents served annually
- One of the region's largest arts employers – 700+ full- and part-time employees
- 900+ students – over half enrolled at the FRC
- \$525,000+ in scholarships awarded annually
- 30 Community Education partner schools in four school districts

About the Francia Russell Center: The center is part of the BelRed Arts District and has been home to PNB's Bellevue School since 2002. Programs at this location include:

- Discover Dance & Community Education
- Dance for All
- Dance for PD® in Partnership with Seattle Theatre Group
- Eastside Summer Intensive
- Eastside Summer Dance Workshops for young children (ages 4-7)
- Community programs, studio rentals, and choreography workshops



International Ballet Theatre (IBT)

2025-26 Award: \$7,000 each year

About IBT: Founded in 2001 with a mission for preserving the beauty of classical ballet while



embracing innovation. Known for stunning productions, creating connections and creative collaborations with artists and companies from our country and the world, captivating audiences of all ages with elegance, artistry, and imagination. Central to IBT's success is the International Ballet Academy (IBA), a vital training hub that fuels the company's artistic excellence. Through IBA, young dancers receive world-class instruction, ensuring a continuous infusion of talent and passion into IBT's productions.

Established Leadership & Longevity

With over two decades of operation under the guidance of Artistic Director Vera Altunina, IBT has demonstrated strong, consistent leadership and institutional resilience.

Educational Pipeline

Through its partnership with the International Ballet Academy, IBT sustains artistic excellence by training future performers and cultivating talent from within the community.



Adaptive Financial Strategy

Despite financial challenges, IBT continues to produce high-quality performances and community programs, showing a commitment to adapting and sustaining operations long-term.

Staff Contact

Manette Stamm, Arts Program Analyst

425-452-4064, mstamm@bellevuewa.gov