

City of Bellevue Cross-Cultural Center without Walls

DRAFT Project Scope

This document summarizes the findings of two Community Workshops held in Fall, 2023 to better understand the community's vision, goals and priorities of the Cross-Cultural Center without Walls pilot project. The project scope below is based on the ideas and feedback from 150 workshop participants.

What is the Cross-Cultural Center without Walls?

In an effort to help unite Bellevue's diverse residents and to build a sense of belonging, the city has initiated a cross-cultural pilot project that will bring people together around shared intercultural experiences. In Fall 2023, the city launched the idea of a traveling Cross-Cultural Center without Walls. Starting in February, 2024, the City will look to community organizations to submit proposals to create Cross-Cultural events, activities, and workshops that travel to different locations around Bellevue for the year-long pilot. The City will provide funding to the proposals that are in closest alignment to the ideas and priorities expressed by the community in the Community Workshops. From this pilot project, we will be able to better understand what the best next steps are for cross-cultural programs within Bellevue.

Why does it matter?

Bellevue is home to people from all over the globe with many diverse identities. We want to lay the groundwork for a thriving, healthy community by intentionally learning from and connecting to each other. This project will give community members the opportunity to explore different cultural approaches to shared human experiences.

What does cross-cultural mean? How are these projects different from multicultural events or activities?

A cross-cultural activity brings together people from two or more cultures in an intentional, mutual exchange of cultural knowledge, approaches, and/or traditions. Cross-cultural exchanges go beyond merely celebrating or acknowledging cultural difference, and instead should focus on creating opportunities for learning and understanding.

Notes:

- “Culture” can mean differences in multiple identities such as race, ethnicity, country of origin, language, age, gender and sexuality, ability, religion, and economic class. We invite cross-cultural exchanges across all of these different identities.
- The presence or participation of multiple cultures does not necessarily make an event cross-cultural unless there is an intentional exchange of ideas, information, traditions, etc. For example, a food festival with vendors from different cultures could be considered multicultural rather than cross-cultural. However, that same festival could be cross-cultural if there were opportunities for participants to learn and share about different histories and traditions related to food cultures.

Cross-Cultural Project Requirements

In order to be considered for selection for a cross-cultural contract with the city, project proposals **must** meet the following requirements:

1. Each project must be cross-cultural, as defined above
2. Each project must be completed within a 12-months of the beginning of the contract
3. In-person activities must take place at existing spaces within Bellevue
4. All projects must be open, free, and accessible to the general public
5. Projects must be led by a legal entity, including non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, LLCs, or sole-proprietors.

“Key Ingredients” and Guiding Principles

The list below summarizes the key take-aways from the community workshops and provides guidelines for cross-cultural project proposals. Individual proposals are **not** expected to include every single one of these principles. However, successful project proposals will consider **at least two** of the following:

- Multi-generational and/or cross-generational, with an emphasis on engaging youth
- Broadly inclusive of different identities and communities, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, including people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, and disabled individuals
- Bring together new partners and/or build new bridges across communities/cultures
- Elevates suppressed, oppressed, and/or marginalized histories, stories, and voices
- Activities are led by those who are part of the cultures being explored
- Events are held in neighborhoods across the city
- Proposal aligns with one of the “priority topic areas” listed below

Priority Project Topic Areas

The topic areas below were identified as “high priority” by the community. Other topic areas will be considered as long as they align to the Project Requirements and two or more of the above Guiding Principles.

1. Interactive Community Dialogues and Workshops:
 - Rituals, Traditions, Rights of Passage
 - Family Practices and Parenting
 - Cultural History and Education
 - Cross-generational mentoring/learning
 - Food and Cooking
 - Celebrations and Holidays
 - Addressing cross-cultural conflict/tension
 - Immigration
 - Religion/philosophy
2. Youth-focused programming
3. Storytelling
4. Theater, Performance, Art, Music, and Dance
5. Health and Wellness - emphasis on mental/emotional health
6. Games, Sports, and Recreation