

Project Updates

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Bellevue Arts Commission

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

City of Bellevue, WA

Project Updates

Funding

Cultural Facility Grants Program

No update to report.

2025 Grants Program

Update: Reports are due November 30, and then the program will be closed out.

2026 Grants Program

Update: Staff will give an update at this meeting.

Planning Projects

BelRed Arts District

Update: On October 25, 2025 the BelRed Arts District Community Alliance opened a new community studio space. They are currently hosting 11 artists at the studios in a pilot program and will eventually make private work studio spaces available at discounted rates.

Economic Development Plan

Update: Council received a report on the data analysis and community engagement progress on September 9. A few days later, the Arts Commission, which had expressed interest in the report at a prior meeting, received the report via email. The next steps for the plan will be to present direct strategies and implementation.

Public Art

Yonder Sky by Po Shu Wang

Update: Yonder Sky is fully installed and operational. The artwork has incorporated lighting and sound elements. The artist is doing some minor refinements to get the lighting more visible at night and to enable more sensitivity with the sensor that triggers the sound. To trigger the sound element, place your hand over the sensor at the front of the artwork. Following refinement, the sound should be triggered without the user needing to touch the artwork.

Rooted by Jill Anholt

Update: This project is being installed in conjunction with a Transportation Department-led trail construction project connecting NE 12th Street and the Eastrail. The transportation project plans to start construction in the Spring of 2026.

Crossroads Public Art by Anna Mlasowsky

Update: Installation is planned for October 24th through the 26th.

Grand Connection

Update: The artist, Matthew Mazzotta, selected for the Grand Connection Crossing Art Plan and initial major artwork visited Bellevue in September to better understand the city and the goals for the Grand Connection and this project. The artist will begin working on deliverables for the art plan. Staff plans to have the artist present to the Arts Commission the theme for the artwork to get feedback on the overall direction of art projects on the Grand Connection Crossing. As a second phase of their work, when the preliminary artwork concepts are complete, staff will organize a discussion with the Public Art Committee to review preliminary concepts.

Portable Art Collection

No update to report.

Temporary Public Art Projects

Update: The art panels along 124th Ave NE are fully installed. In partnership with the BelRed Arts District Community Alliance, the new temporary artwork by Bethany Fackrell received a joyous ribbon-cutting on October 3rd.



Two artists have accepted the offer for the large BelRed mural to be installed before the World Cup next year. While not yet under contract, staff will keep the Commission updated once everything is final and designs are underway.

Public Art Collection & Maintenance

Update: The maintenance work planned for 2025 has been completed. In total, 30 of the 57 permanent outdoor artworks were maintained throughout the year. The remainder of artworks, with a few exceptions, will be maintained in 2026. Exceptions are due to recent maintenance work having

occurred and the high cost of major restorations, like for *The Root*, at Bellevue City Hall.

Eastside Artist Roster

Update: 238 submitted applications.

Community Update

KidsQuest Children's Museum & Bellevue Arts Museum

Update: In late September, KidsQuest Children's Museum and the Bellevue Arts Museum announced that they have signed a purchase and sale agreement for the Steven Holl building on Bellevue Way, which had been the home to the Bellevue Arts Museum before they closed their doors to the public. The two organizations are now in a due diligence period with the sale expected to close in early 2026. The Bellevue Arts Museum will use the proceeds from the sale to cover outstanding debts, and then will make future plans for the organization. Currently, they have expressed an intent to continue the long-standing Bellevue Arts Fair.

KidsQuest Children's Museum has been looking to expand into a larger facility as they have reached capacity limits at their current 13,500 sq ft location. The Steven Holl building is approximately 39,000 sq ft and will provide expanded exhibit space.