

ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC

Partner Presentation

Ben Brandow, Interim General Manager & Director of Development, 91.3 KBCS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ONLY

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

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

91.3 KBCS (Bellevue College Foundation)

2025-26 Award: \$XX each year

KBCS (91.3FM) is the Eastside's non-profit, non-commercial, public radio station, located on the campus of Bellevue College. The station first went on the air in 1973 with the help of a handful of Bellevue College students and faculty advisors. Over the years, KBCS's broadcast signal has expanded from barely covering the campus of the college to now covering the Bellevue-Seattle-Tacoma region. The station's current format includes social justice-focused news and public affairs programming weekdays 5 a.m.-1 p.m. and a diverse mix of music

weekday afternoons, evenings, and overnights, as well as all day on the weekend.

With a small staff of three full-time employees, and over 30 volunteer DJs and student employees, KBCS reaches approximately 60-70k individual listeners each week via its broadcast signal and thousands more through the station's online stream and mobile app. The station's flagship music program, "*Roots, Rock, and Soul*," is hosted by Bellevue College alum, Iaan Hughes, weekday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. and features regular live performances by local artists and artists touring in the region. Evening and weekend volunteer programming spans genres including folk, bluegrass, Celtic, Latin, Hawaiian, reggae, hip-hop, Balkan, and more.



Classical Guitarist Bokyung Byun live on-air in the KBCS Studios prior to performance at Carlson Theatre



The Warren G Hardings on the KBCS stage at Wintergrass Festival

In a time when local media outlets are being consolidated and bought up by non-local businesses, public media organizations like KBCS provide a refreshing opportunity for our own community to take part in local media. The station's non-commercial format allows it to remain free from corporate influence. In the shadow of AI and a constant push to automate processes, KBCS's continued growth in the face of evolving technology demonstrates our community's desire to connect on a human level and KBCS strives to create that sense of community.

KBCS's reach into Seattle and Tacoma provides an opportunity to share with neighboring communities the many amazing things happening in Bellevue and on the Eastside. The station provides a free online community calendar and periodically provides free announcements for qualifying non-profit

events and gives priority to events happening on the Eastside. The station has collaborated with the Bellevue Downtown Association Jazz and Blues Series, the Wintergrass Bluegrass Festival at the Hyatt

Regency in Bellevue, the Bellevue College Guitar Series, and more.

The Eastside Arts Partnership grant that KBCS receives from the City of Bellevue allows KBCS to amplify community voices and showcase so much of what the Eastside, Bellevue, and the entire Puget Sound Region have to offer. The consistency of this annual grant has provided KBCS with a vital and reliable source of support to plan ahead and be forward-thinking.

For more information about KBCS, we welcome you to visit www.kbcs.fm, tune in at 91.3FM, or download the KBCS mobile app.



Amy Ray of Indego Girls Live at KBCS

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 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.

OPTIONS

1. N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- A. N/A