

Cross-Cultural Center

Project Update

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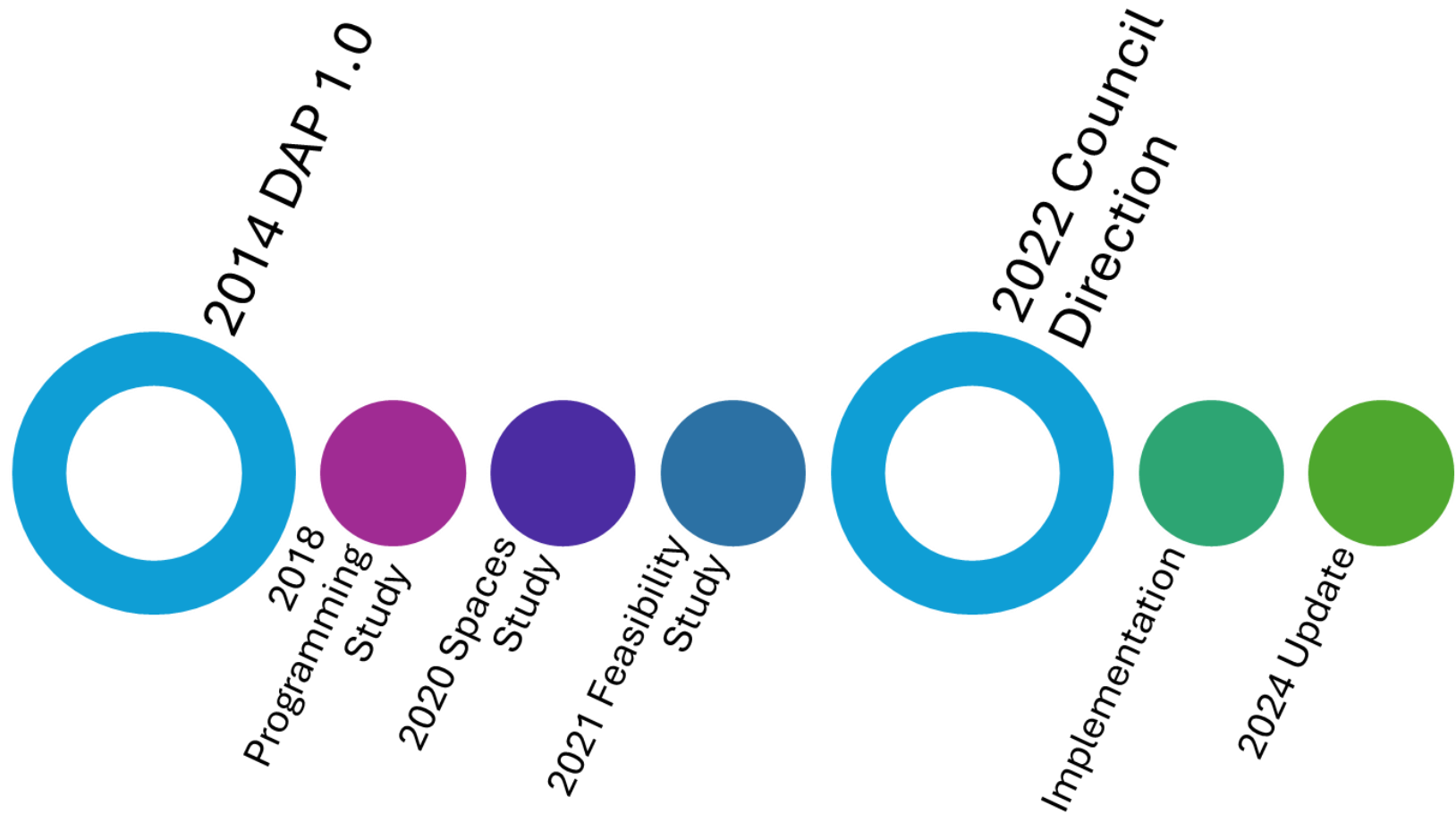


Information

To provide an update on the Cross-Cultural Center project and identify next steps.



Background



Feasibility Studies: Key Findings

- Wide-spread support for cross-cultural programs and facility
- Community-led, City-supported model
- Short-term investments in programming, capacity building, and spaces



Support for Cross-Cultural Building

Cross-cultural engagement is a high priority for City staff, leaders, stakeholders and community members

27,000 sf

**\$35 million
capital cost**

**\$1.9 million
operating cost**



Community-led, City supported

- City needs a mission-driven community partner
- Intensive level of operational and development capacity is needed
- Will likely require significant capacity building



Short-Term Investments

- City investment needed to translate interest in to action and utilization
- Cross-cultural engagement and programming
- Space
- Partner capacity building



2022 Council Direction

1. Pursue Cross-Cultural Programming
2. Test out existing spaces
3. Explore possible partnerships



Cross-Cultural Center without Walls

- Traveling cross-cultural center
- Invest in community organizations
- Pilot cross-cultural programming and existing spaces
- Build capacity and relationships



Community Engagement

- 3 Community Workshops
- 150+ participants
- 70+ ideas generated
- Values, priorities, and guiding principles



Requesting Project Proposals

- Community-informed Scope of Work
- Community-informed evaluation
- Open Feb. 7 – Mar. 8, 2024
- Expect it to be competitive





Cross- Cultural Contracts

- 20-30 contracts
- \$2,500 - \$15,000
- Single organizations, Partnerships, Collaborations
- Non-profits, businesses, individuals, etc.
- Programs running May, 2024 – May, 2025





“In an effort to improve a sense of belonging in the city, the Cross-Cultural Center without Walls will bring Bellevue’s diverse community together around intercultural events and programs. Through this project, community members will have the opportunity to explore and learn from different cultural approaches to our shared human experiences”



Next Steps

- Evaluate programming successes and challenges, including space
- Identify possible long-term partners
- Return to Council with further updates, including partnerships toward physical facility





2024 NLC “Cultural Diversity” Award Honoree

“...[The] Cross-Cultural Center without Walls is a shining example of diversity and total community collaboration and partnership.”





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