

ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC

Partner Presentations

Barbara Hughes, Board President and Phyllis White, Treasurer, Bellevue Farmers Market and Carol Vecchio, A Cappella Joy Chorus

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**INFORMATION
ONLY**

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

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**Bellevue Farmers Market**

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

Now in our 23rd year, Bellevue Farmers Market is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) with a mission to support small local farms and put on a community gathering that connects Bellevue residents. Serving Bellevue and the surrounding communities, in 2025 we had 32,000 visitors across our 22 markets. We provided a space for the community to gather and for 87 small vendors (including 22 farmers) to sell fresh local food, and a small amount of local crafts, achieving \$1 million in vendor sales across the season. Our total SNAP benefits and Market Match was \$13,000. Our Senior and WIC Benefits spent was \$5,000. We hosted 20 community nonprofits and kept 106 volunteers of all ages connected and engaged in their city. Our vendors donated almost 2,000 lbs of food to HopeLink.

Music is critical at our farmers market as it adds energy, joy and community spirit. Folks come out to shop, but they also stay to enjoy free and diverse live music which creates a welcoming environment that encourages folks to linger longer – often they will then buy dinner at our food trucks and maybe shop a little more. Live music helps increase our shopper count and spend, and it gives our many local musicians a place to perform (and



be paid). Bellevue Farmers Market is unique as we don't use buskers – our musicians are paid for their performance and able to earn a living. Most of all, music helps us create a place for everyone in Bellevue to belong.

Bellevue Farmers Market is @ 1717 Bellevue Way N.E. Thursdays, May 21 – October 1 (3-7:30pm through September, 3-7pm Sept-Oct) and one Saturday in October, date TBD, and Saturday, November 21st, 10am-3pm.

Also, Bellevue Farmers Market @106th in the heart of downtown Bellevue on Saturday, August 8th, 10am-3pm. bellevuefarmersmarket.org

A Cappella Joy Chorus

2025-26 Award: \$5,000 each year



[A Cappella Joy](#) is an award-winning *a cappella* chorus singing a broad range of music in the barbershop style. Under the direction of Nikki Blackmer, a highly-trained and credentialed musician, our 65 members range in age from 13 to 80- something and come from a wide variety of backgrounds. We share the love of music and dedication to excellence that have come to define the chorus. We work hard, play hard, and live and breathe barbershop music. Barbershop music is a quintessentially American art form with origins in the African-American community. In barbershop singing, four voice parts—labeled tenor, lead, baritone, and bass—combine to create beautiful chords. All the parts are arranged for treble voices. One of our goals is to reach out and educate young people about its history and invite them to embrace this unique music. Our mission: We are dedicated to musical excellence, committed to inclusiveness and diversity, and determined to bring a fresh, fun approach to a traditional American art form.

Inclusive A Cappella Joy Chorus welcomes new members, regardless of age, race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender expression, or vocal range. If you love to sing and are ready to challenge yourself, please visit us. We conduct in-person rehearsals at Temple B'nai Torah in Bellevue, Washington every Monday evening at 7:00pm.

Sweet Adelines A Cappella Joy, called AJoy (AY-joy) for short, is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International (SAI), an organization of 20,000+ barbershop singers worldwide. The chorus is one of 24 choruses of North by Northwest SAI Region #13, which includes Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho,

and Montana. Originally chartered as the Lakeside Chorus in 1958, we have a long and proud tradition of musical excellence, education, and community involvement. In 2024 we won the SAI Harmony Classic AA International Competition (watch here) in Kansas City, MO. In 2025 we won our Regional contest (watch here) and qualified to compete on the International stage once again in October 2026 in Columbus, OH. In preparation for that, our next free Friends & Family performance is at our rehearsal space on Monday, October 12th at 7:30pm. Please plan to attend and hear us in person.



Entertaining! We have both large and small ensembles, including quartets, to meet all your musical entertainment needs. A Cappella Joy has performed for local businesses, public events, retirement communities, sports venues, music festivals, and corporate events. We offer general occasion, patriotic, and holiday repertoires and look forward to sharing our music with you!

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