

Bellevue Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
1E-113 and Virtual

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Enomoto, Commissioners Bhargava, Martinez, McIntyre

Commissioners Remote: Commissioner Hazra (until 5:12 p.m., then in person)

Commissioners Absent: Chair Aldredge

Staff Present: Manette Stamm, Lorie Hoffman, Department of Community Development

Others Present: Councilmember Sumadiwirya; Kevin Vortmann, Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra; Nuda Lu, Henda Li, American Asian Performing Arts Theatre

Recording Secretary: Gerry Lindsay

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Enomoto, who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Aldredge.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner McIntyre. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martínez, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 14, 2026, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Bhargava. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Oral Communications

Alex Tsimerman criticized the Commission and city leadership, alleging violations of constitutional free speech rights and expressing dissatisfaction with rules adopted by the Bellevue City Council approximately 12 years earlier that limit public speaking at Council meetings. The speaker further alleged that the rules were implemented specifically in response to the speaker's participation in public meetings. During the remarks, the speaker also referenced prior restrictions that had prevented attendance at Council chambers and asserted long-standing participation in public meetings dating back to the mid-1990s.

Bailey Fuentes, a local artist on the Eastside Artist Roster and a recipient of a 2025 project grant, provided an update regarding a mural project originally planned for the

Evans Business Park within the BelRed Arts District. According to the speaker, the business park withdrew from the agreement shortly before the project was to proceed, leaving the proposed mural without a location. The suggestion was made to relocate the mural to a nearby city facility building situated between the Spring District and the BelRed Arts District that houses police, fire, and utility vehicles. The project is supported by a \$ 4,000 grant from the Arts Commission. The intention is to use the remaining funds to complete the mural on the different building in 2026. Appreciation for the program was expressed, and interest in continuing the project was noted.

4. Action, Discussion and Information Items

A. Partner Presentations

- Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra

Kevin Vortmann, Executive Director of the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra, described how the organization utilizes city support to provide youth music programming across the Eastside. The Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra is in its 61st season and currently serves more than 1,200 students through a range of programs. The organization's activities are divided into four pillars. The first pillar consists of academic-year programming, including eleven audition-based ensembles. More than 1,000 students auditioned last year, and approximately 750 are currently participating in the ensembles this academic year. The programs include 15 public concerts with ticket prices designed to be accessible, including discounted and free tickets. A central feature of the organization's programming is its commitment to meeting 100% of all tuition-assistance requests. The organization intentionally removed traditional financial documentation requirements to reduce barriers for families seeking assistance and to avoid stigmatizing participants who require financial support.

The second pillar involves summer programming, including three weeks of full-day orchestra camps designed for students of varying ages and abilities. The camps are non-auditioned and serve approximately 200 students each summer, again with tuition assistance available to all who request it. Participation in the academic and summer programs has grown significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding from 372 students in the first season following the pandemic closures to roughly double that number within four years. To accommodate the demand, the organization has added two additional ensembles.

Kevin Vortmann explained that the organization's financial stability during and after the pandemic, combined with increased funding from sources such as King County's Doors Open initiative, has allowed the organization to expand community outreach programs that have long been envisioned. The expansion includes the Bridges Initiative, which focuses on community partnerships and access to music education. One component of the initiative is a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue. Through the collaboration, a four-week bucket drumming workshop is offered free of charge at all fourteen Boys and Girls Club sites in Bellevue. The program introduces basic rhythm and percussion concepts and culminates in a performance, providing a low-barrier entry point for youth to experience music education. In partnership with that, another outreach program provides free private and semi-private instrumental lessons during the school day through partnerships with Bellevue Public Schools and the Renton and Lake Washington school districts. More than 400 students are currently receiving the lessons, reducing access barriers and creating pathways for students who might otherwise lack opportunities to develop musical skills.

The third pillar of programming involves community concerts and public events. The Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra serves as the resident orchestra for the City of Bellevue's Fourth of July celebration, performing for approximately 60,000 attendees each year. Additional performances include an annual concert at the Bellevue Botanical Garden and seasonal outreach performances by student ensembles at community locations, including assisted living communities, shopping centers, and other public spaces.

A new master class series was recently launched. It will allow students to work with professional musicians in free, open-to-the-public sessions, enabling community members to observe and benefit from the instructional process.

Kevin Vortmann emphasized that while the organization continues to serve families who have historically participated in its programs, its long-term mission increasingly focuses on expanding access and removing financial and structural barriers to music education so that a broader range of students can participate in instrumental music programs.

Commissioner McIntyre expressed appreciation for the organization's work supporting youth music education. The question asked what the organization attributes to its strong financial position after the pandemic. Kevin Vortmann said several factors contributed to the organization's growth and financial health. Many participating families place a high value on extracurricular activities that strengthen university admissions applications. During the pandemic, when standardized testing requirements were temporarily removed from many college admissions processes, participation in meaningful extracurricular programs became especially important. As a result, families invested more heavily in activities such as youth orchestras. The organization earned families' trust during the pandemic by providing a high-quality musical experience that complemented both private lessons and public-school music programs. The program offers access to professional performance venues, individualized coaching sessions with professional musicians, and opportunities to perform full orchestral repertoire that students may not encounter within typical school ensembles, where instrumental groups are often separated. Additionally, strong communication with families has been a major factor in the organization's continued growth. Many of the parents of students participating in extracurricular programs often experience frustration due to poor communication and a lack of clarity from organizations. By way of contrast, the orchestra prioritizes clear communication and supportive relationships with families. The emphasis has generated positive word of mouth, leading to increased enrollment without the need for advertising. The organization's recent expansion has occurred entirely through organic growth.

Vice Chair Enomoto asked the presenter to describe anticipated future challenges and identify areas where the city might assist. Kevin Vortmann said the most significant challenge facing the organization is access to adequate rehearsal and performance space. Rehearsals currently occur on Monday and Tuesday evenings and involve several ensembles of more than eighty students each, all requiring simultaneous rehearsal space. In addition to large rehearsal areas, the organization must also provide multiple smaller spaces where sections of the orchestra can rehearse independently without sound interference. Securing rehearsal space has become increasingly difficult. Although the organization maintains relationships with local public schools, its facilities primarily serve school-based activities and cannot always guarantee access for outside organizations. Reservations sometimes cannot be confirmed until shortly before rehearsals begin, which complicates long-term planning. As a result, the organization has increasingly relied on private sector venues, an arrangement that is less desirable

than using public spaces. Because of the challenges, more than half of the orchestra's programming now takes place outside Bellevue, despite the organization's historic connection to the city and the fact that most participants reside within the Bellevue School District. Bellevue's continued growth has not been matched by the development of large cultural or arts spaces capable of supporting community arts organizations.

Commissioner McIntyre asked what performance venues in nearby communities serve as models for Bellevue to follow. Kevin Vortmann mentioned several locations visited in the region, including facilities in Kirkland and Federal Way. The Inglemoor concert hall in Kenmore meets specifications particularly suited to the orchestra's needs. However, the facility is located within a public school, which again limits access and makes advance scheduling difficult. The organization's concerts often sell out, and the current venues in Bellevue are frequently too small to accommodate both performers and audiences. Meydenbauer Center is an example of a valued partnership, but the venue cannot comfortably accommodate the full orchestra and audience. Although alternative spaces such as larger concert halls in Seattle exist, constructing a major facility on the scale of Benaroya Hall will likely be impractical for Bellevue at this time. Instead, a more incremental approach is needed in which the city gradually invests in cultural infrastructure and supports existing arts organizations, allowing the demand to demonstrate the need for additional performance spaces over time.

Kevin Vortmann said the types of facilities that will best support the orchestra's operations ideally would have a stage large enough for a 100-piece orchestra, seating for approximately 750 to 1000 audience members, adequate backstage space for multiple ensembles, dressing rooms, and sufficient parking capacity. Other locations occasionally used for performances include the Bastyr University Chapel, which offers flexible staging options through temporary stage construction. However, many spaces in the region lack the necessary combination of rehearsal areas, performance capacity, and logistical infrastructure. The organization's desire is to keep its programming centered in Bellevue, though doing so has become increasingly challenging due to space limitations.

- American Asian Performing Arts Theatre

Nuda Lu, a member of the American Asia Performing Arts Theater (AAPAT), said the organization was founded in 2006 by Hendga Li with the mission of promoting and developing Asian cultural and performing arts while fostering cultural exchange between Eastern and Western traditions. Through its activities, the organization seeks to strengthen multicultural engagement within the community. The organization has an extensive record of artistic production, having created 62 major productions and staged nearly one thousand performances since its founding. Among its signature events is the annual Lunar New Year celebration, which has in the past been attended by members of the Commission. The organization has also produced collaborative performances with internationally recognized artistic groups, including Butterfly Lovers, in partnership with the Beijing Dance Academy, and Dream of the Golden Cloud, with the China Acrobatic Troupe. Visual examples of those productions were included with the accompanying presentation slides.

In a video shown to the Commission, The Dream of the Golden Clown was characterized as a production featuring dazzling movement and music that tells the story of a young person pursuing a dream, performed by the China National Acrobatic Troupe, winners of the 37th annual Golden Clown Award, and directed by an award-winning Seattle choreographer.

Nuda Lu explains that while the organization regularly presents work at premier local venues, its touring reach extends along the West Coast and has included successful engagements in cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Portland, and Vancouver. AAPAT cultivates a broad range of art forms, from ballet to Chinese dance, and serves participants across a wide age range, from early childhood through older adulthood. The organization is committed to providing professional stage experience and development opportunities for younger performers. The organization produces performances tailored to different age groups.

Nuda Lu said the organization's commitment to excellence is demonstrated through competitive achievements. AAPAT dancers have earned gold medals at prominent competitions, including Showstopper and YAGP, as well as competitions in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Participation in international competitions has earned gold and silver medals and international recognition for the greater Seattle area.

Nuda Lu described AAPAT's community service work and long-standing participation in local traditions. The organization has been involved in Seattle's Seafair Torchlight Parade for many years with a Chinese-themed float that received a creativity award. Additional community engagement has included service activities with institutions such as an Asian art museum, local schools, and senior housing communities. The organization is also involved in humanitarian fundraising, through which more than \$20,000 was raised for COVID-19 relief efforts, and sleeping bags were donated to victims of an earthquake.

The organization's growth trajectory was nearly interrupted in 2020 when its rehearsal space in Seattle was destroyed by fire during the pandemic. Gratitude was expressed to the Commission whose grant support was instrumental in helping the organization rebuild and expand a new facility in Bellevue. The design work is complete, and permitting is underway. The new building will serve as a space for artistic creation and reflect the Commission's support for local arts development. The rebuilt and expanded facility will enable the organization to produce higher-quality work and provide greater community service.

Commissioner Bhargava asked whether the Bellevue grant alone would support recovery from the fire, or whether other funding sources had also been secured. Nuda Lu said that the needs exceeded the available resources. Multiple grants were pursued and received, and the Bellevue funding supported a portion of the building expansion. The specific improvements associated with the expansion included higher ceilings and increased capacity, allowing more dancers to rehearse safely and perform movements that had been constrained in the prior facility.

Commissioner McIntyre asked where the performance and rehearsal spaces are located. Nuda Lu said the rehearsal space is in Seattle, and the facility that was destroyed by fire was also in Seattle. The current expansion work involves a new space in Bellevue's Lake Hills area.

Hendga Li added that performances are held annually at Meydenbauer Center and at other local venues.

Commissioner Bhargava asked if most of the performers are local. Nuda Lu explained that approximately half of the performers are local. The organization is seeking to bring in performers from other states and countries, though the costs of travel, lodging, and related expenses are high even when guest artists waive performance fees. Additional funding would allow for more frequent performances and a wider variety in

programming. Bringing in performers from diverse locations can support local artists and advance multicultural aims.

Commissioner Martínez asked about the organization's plans for the current year. Nuda Lu said the primary focus is on obtaining the necessary permits and starting construction as soon as feasible. Hopefully, the permits will be in hand by the end of March. A recent performance was held at a local venue, and upcoming June events will feature multiple programs.

Commissioner Martínez asked if the organization intends to specialize in activities across multiple sites. Nuda Lu clarified that since the fire, the Seattle rehearsal facility is no longer available for rehearsals.

B. Bellevue School Board Letter

Lorie Hoffman explained that the Commission has received substantial and consistent feedback from grant recipients, arts organizations, and members of the public regarding the need for space, specifically, places to create and present art. One particularly pointed concern has been facilities owned by the Bellevue School District, including five performance venues, two of which are the largest in the city of Bellevue. In addition to theaters, school facilities often include essential adjacent spaces such as classrooms, ticketing areas, dressing rooms, and lobbies that are necessary for many types of performances, especially those involving large numbers of performers and multiple ensembles. The Commission previously discussed using its voice to communicate with the school district about reopening school performance venues for public rental.

Lorie Hoffman said school district facilities historically have been designed for public rental; that was the case until the pandemic. Although the district's website still indicates that community activities may be permitted, the current system displays a warning message when attempting to rent facilities that says availability is limited. The Commission has discussed sending a formal letter to the Bellevue School District outlining the community's concerns and requesting reconsideration of public rental access, while recognizing that educational needs must remain the district's priority.

To advance the work, the Community Partnerships Committee will be convened to draft the letter. The committee members are Commissioners Hazra and Martínez. Given the current Commission vacancy, Commissioner Bhargava was asked to join as the alternate. The focus will be on drafting a letter in coordination with the City Clerk's Office to ensure proper protocol is followed. It was stressed that while drafting letters is within the Commission's authority, it is not a process that is frequently used. The committee members were advised to expect an email to schedule the committee's work.

Commissioner Hazra asked whether it would be stronger to issue a letter jointly by the City Council and the Arts Commission rather than solely by the Commission. Lorie Hoffman said once a letter is drafted, that notion could be explored with the City Clerk to ensure proper protocol is followed.

Commissioner Hazra asked if the closure of publicly rentable school spaces resulted from the pandemic and had simply not been reversed. Lorie Hoffman said that remains an unknown, though the community has said there was a budget cycle in which it was necessary to reduce the number of FTEs. That has not been confirmed by the school district.

C. Arts in Bellevue Discussion

Manette Stamm opened the floor for the Commissioners to discuss arts and culture in Bellevue generally. A similar discussion was held the prior year, and interest was expressed in holding such discussions more regularly.

Commissioner Bhargava asked about the status of the Bellevue Art Museum and if the institution might reopen. Lorie Hoffman said the organization remains in receivership. A purchase and sale agreement for the museum building was recently brought before the King County courts for approval. The offer is from the KidsQuest Children's Museum to purchase the property. The agreement was approved by the court, and a protest window passed without objection. Negotiations are continuing toward closing within the established deadlines. The Bellevue Art Museum organization itself is continuing discussions about its future following the sale of the building. Because the facility is large and expensive to maintain, the organization is exploring alternative locations and possible paths forward once it receives the remaining funds from the asset sale. The longstanding Bellevue Arts Fair will continue as scheduled, marking its eightieth year in 2026.

Commissioner Bhargava asked if the city might step in to assist the Bellevue Art Museum in addressing the financial challenges. Lorie Hoffman responded that, like other nonprofit organizations operating within the city, the museum is eligible to apply for publicly available, competitive funding programs, but there are no special funding arrangements specifically reserved for the institution.

Commissioner Bhargava suggested it might be beneficial for the city to consider more substantial dedicated funding for arts organizations, adding that stronger municipal support could help preserve institutions such as an art museum and potentially address broader needs for arts space within the city. Lorie Hoffman reminded the Commission that the city had recently established an arts and cultural facilities grant program designed specifically to support cultural infrastructure. The program represents a significant new funding initiative intended to help address space-related needs for arts organizations. The expansion project presented earlier in the meeting by the American Asia Performing Arts Theater received funding through the program. Organizations in good financial standing are eligible to apply for facility funding. The next round of applications will open in April.

Vice Chair Enomoto referred to the ongoing influx of corporations occupying buildings in Bellevue and asked if there are any cultural incentives to ensure that arts and cultural resources continue to grow alongside economic development. Strategies should be considered to ensure that rising development and costs do not displace creative communities. Lorie Hoffman said those are just the types of policy questions that should be asked during the cultural planning process, in that they involve broad stakeholder engagement. Many communities use tools such as "one percent for the arts programs, which dedicate a portion of infrastructure project funding to arts initiatives. Such programs are commonly applied to public infrastructure rather than private development, but various policy options could be explored through a comprehensive planning effort.

Commissioner Hazra described experiences in recently constructed office buildings used by technology companies, noting that some buildings include large meeting or event spaces that are occasionally made available for community use when an employee sponsors the event. Such venues could be used for cultural activities, such as readings or smaller performances. Vice Chair Enomoto agreed that similar arrangements exist

within other companies and suggested that compiling information about businesses willing to provide community space might improve public awareness of the opportunities, which currently often depend on personal connections to company employees.

Councilmember Sumadiwiryra said the Council has recently received briefings related to affordable housing developments in areas such as Wilburton and other transit-oriented development sites. Some of the projects include ground-floor partnerships with arts organizations, creating opportunities for cultural uses within mixed-use developments. Funding for housing initiatives often involves support from major technology companies. Such partnerships may indirectly strengthen support for arts and cultural activities by incorporating affordable or subsidized creative spaces within development projects.

Vice Chair Enomoto agreed that exploring such partnerships could be beneficial. New residential developments sometimes include ground-floor multipurpose spaces that might be adaptable for cultural activities. The City might consider engaging with property managers or developers to determine if such spaces could be made available for arts programming. Councilmember Sumadiwiryra supported the idea and emphasized the importance of proactively identifying opportunities.

Lorie Hoffman highlighted ongoing planning efforts within the BelRed district. In addition to city-led projects developing cultural spaces, the city is currently reviewing Land Use Code amendments for that district. The updates include potential strategies and incentives designed to encourage the inclusion of arts and cultural spaces in new developments. Staff from the Department of Development Services could be invited to provide the Commission with an update on the efforts.

Commissioner Martínez raised a broader strategic question regarding the Commission's responsibility to help establish a long-range plan for the development and operation of a cultural center. Planning and constructing major civic facilities often takes many years, and the Commission should begin developing a long-term vision for such a center. A dedicated cultural center could provide rehearsal space, performance venues, and other resources for arts organizations across the city, independent of the availability of school district facilities. Optimism was expressed about pursuing a long-term goal of developing such a facility within approximately a decade.

Commissioner McIntyre agreed and referenced earlier comments about the need for a large performing arts venue, noting that facilities such as the Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center demonstrate how a purpose-built performance space can serve as a major community amenity. The question asked was whether other city departments or groups have previously explored similar concepts in detail. Lorie Hoffman said the idea of constructing a performing arts center has been discussed in the community for many years. In more recent years, efforts to pursue such a facility have often been led by nonprofit organizations rather than the city itself. The upcoming cultural planning process, which is expected to begin toward the end of the year or early in 2027, will be an appropriate forum to revisit the question of a performing arts center. Municipal initiatives typically proceed only after policy frameworks are established, and a cultural plan serves as that policy foundation by incorporating extensive community input and stakeholder engagement. There is some related work already underway in other areas of local government. For example, the City's Diversity Advantage Initiative has, for several years, been studying the potential development of a cross-cultural center. In addition, the Bellevue Convention Center Authority, which operates as a public development authority of the city, has been examining options for expanded events and

performance facilities. The options could range from expanding the existing Meydenbauer Theater to constructing entirely new facilities. Several parallel discussions about cultural infrastructure are occurring within the community and within local government entities.

Commissioner McIntyre commented that developing an actual business plan might be welcomed as an initial step toward fulfilling the wishes and desires of multiple departments. Lorie Hoffman cautioned against moving prematurely toward a vision plan without first reviewing the existing research. The staff are currently validating the studies conducted and the business plans developed. Staff are also focused on conducting an updated market analysis, given that it has been some time since such an analysis was completed. The work is being conducted at the staff level this year and is intended to prepare the city for a broader cultural planning process.

Commissioner McIntyre asked why neighboring cities such as Federal Way and Kirkland have been able to establish performing arts facilities while Bellevue has not. Lorie Hoffman said the cost of land in Bellevue is very high, and that is likely the most significant factor and a substantial barrier.

Vice Chair Enomoto added that it is difficult to compete with corporate development and commercial real estate uses that can generate higher financial returns than cultural facilities, making it hard to justify dedicating valuable land to arts infrastructure. Partnerships with developers might provide a more feasible path forward by incorporating cultural spaces within new developments.

Commissioner Bhargava observed that corporations moving into Bellevue might represent potential partners in funding cultural infrastructure, perhaps through philanthropic contributions in exchange for recognition associated with the facility. Such partnerships could resemble sponsorship arrangements commonly seen in sports venues and might provide businesses with positive community visibility while benefiting the arts sector. Vice Chair Enomoto agreed that encouraging a stronger culture of philanthropy among corporations could benefit the community and the companies' public image.

Commissioner Hazra noted that the idea of developing a performing arts center in Bellevue has been studied numerous times over the last 30 years. One issue is that such projects are so huge that they just do not happen. With a \$300 million price tag and a \$200,000 market research cost, things do not move forward. The best approach is to utilize existing spaces rather than pursue entirely new construction. Drawing on professional experience, the Commissioner explained that large corporate campuses often contain sizable indoor spaces capable of hosting events or gatherings. Companies sometimes allow nonprofit organizations to use those spaces if a request is made and an employee sponsors the event. Corporations may also receive tax benefits when supporting nonprofit activities. Arts organizations might benefit from becoming more aware of such opportunities.

Commissioner Bhargava agreed that a lack of awareness may exist within the arts community. Organizations simply may not know that corporate spaces exist or may lack the connections needed to access them. Vice Chair Enomoto reiterated that access often depends on relationships with company employees who can sponsor events, which creates an additional barrier for organizations without those contacts.

Commissioner Hazra suggested considering outreach to major local companies, like the letter being drafted to the Bellevue School District regarding access to school facilities.

Commissioner Bhargava noted that corporate partners frequently interact with the city through departments focused on economic development or technology initiatives and may not be aware of the arts community's needs because conversations occur in separate contexts. Greater coordination across city departments could help raise awareness among corporate partners about opportunities to support arts organizations.

Vice Chair Enomoto acknowledged that such connections could be facilitated by city leadership or Council engagement. Another Commissioner observed that corporations already collaborate with the city on technology-related events, indicating that extending those relationships to arts initiatives might simply require initiating the conversation.

Lorie Hoffman reminded the Commission that outreach to corporate partners likely falls within the staff's responsibilities and should be approached as part of broader partnership development efforts.

Commissioner Martínez observed that the Commission frequently receives updates from grant recipients describing performances, exhibitions, and other cultural activities made possible by city funding. While expressing appreciation for the updates, the Commissioner asked whether the city could assist in promoting events to reach wider audiences, for example, through the City's arts program's social media channels.

Vice Chair Enomoto asked whether recent discussions with the BelRed arts initiative have included collaboration on a shared events calendar for organizations to publicize upcoming activities.

Manette Stamm explained that communications support for grant recipients is included in the program's processes. When grants are awarded, recipients receive a welcome packet explaining that staff can assist with promotion through the city's arts program social media channels, particularly Instagram, which provides the strongest engagement. Organizations receiving project or Eastside Arts Partnership grants are invited to submit promotional information for cross-posting. In addition, event calendars are maintained by the city and by Visit Bellevue, and they have been shared with recipients as tools for publicizing their activities. The welcome materials also include graphics that organizations can use to announce that their projects are supported by the Bellevue Arts Commission.

Manette Stamm added that the Commission's meeting packets now include more detailed summaries of upcoming grant-supported events. The Commissioners were encouraged to share information about the activities with their own networks to expand community awareness.

Vice Chair Enomoto suggested that future open discussions regarding arts and culture might benefit from having reference materials available in advance, such as the city's earlier cultural planning documents, noting that it will be helpful to review specific elements of prior plans during discussions. Lorie Hoffman agreed and explained that the city's former cultural planning document, the Cultural Compass plan, adopted in 2004, has sunset and is no longer the current guiding framework. However, it can still be useful to review in preparation for future planning efforts.

5. Commission Quick Business

A. Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting was set for April 1.

B. Boards and Commissions Appreciation Event

Manette Stamm invited the Commissioners to attend the event scheduled for May 11 at City Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Lorie Hoffman said the event was a good opportunity to speak with the members of other city boards and commissions.

6. REPORTS

A. Project Updates

Councilmember Sumadiwiryra asked if the Commission had specific requests or areas where support from the City Council would be helpful. The Commission's priorities will be communicated during discussions with other Councilmembers. Arts and culture are important components of the community's economic vitality. Where possible, the Commission's concerns will be elevated to the rest of the Council.

Vice Chair Enomoto said in short, the pressing needs are space and funding.

Commissioner Hazra agreed but suggested space should be given top priority, particularly in relation to facilities owned by the Bellevue School District.

6. Reports

A. Project Updates

Lorie Hoffman called attention to a new section in the Commissioners' packets highlighting upcoming events organized by grant recipients. The entries will include links that Commissioners can access electronically to learn more about grant-supported programs and performances.

Manette Stamm reported that the guidelines for the city's cultural facilities grant program will be released soon. The application process will open on April 13 using a new grant management platform. At the next meeting, the Commission will confirm membership of the review committee for the grant cycle and receive training on using the new software to evaluate submissions.

Lorie Hoffman said the city's Department of Development Services recently hosted an open house regarding proposed Land Use Code amendments affecting the BelRed district. Arts program staff and representatives from the BelRed Arts District Community Alliance attended the event to assist with answering questions about arts district initiatives. The open house was well attended. Additional updates from the development services team will be provided in the future.

The city's Economic Development Plan was presented to the City Council for final review on February 10 and will return to the Council on the consent agenda for formal approval. The six-year plan will guide economic development efforts. It includes a section focused on the creative economy, with initiatives related in part to the BelRed Arts District.

Lorie Hoffman highlighted a new exhibition installed in preparation for an upcoming international soccer tournament, which is expected to bring global visitors to the region.


The exhibition, titled *Bellevue Welcomes the World*, has been installed along the City Hall catwalk and features artworks emphasizing the city's cultural diversity and international character. The exhibition includes a significant number of figurative works drawn from the city's portable art collection. The Commissioners were encouraged to view the display after the meeting. The exhibition is expected to remain on view through at least the summer months.

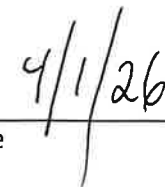
Planning continues for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Crossroads public art installation by artist Anna Maslowski. Because the installation is in a park, the event will likely take place during favorable weather in spring or summer. Invitations will be distributed once the date is finalized.

7. Written Communications and Other Information – None

8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Enomoto adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.


City of Bellevue staff liaison


Date