

ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC

Partner Presentations

Kevin Vortmann, Executive Director, Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra
American Asian Performing Arts Theatre

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

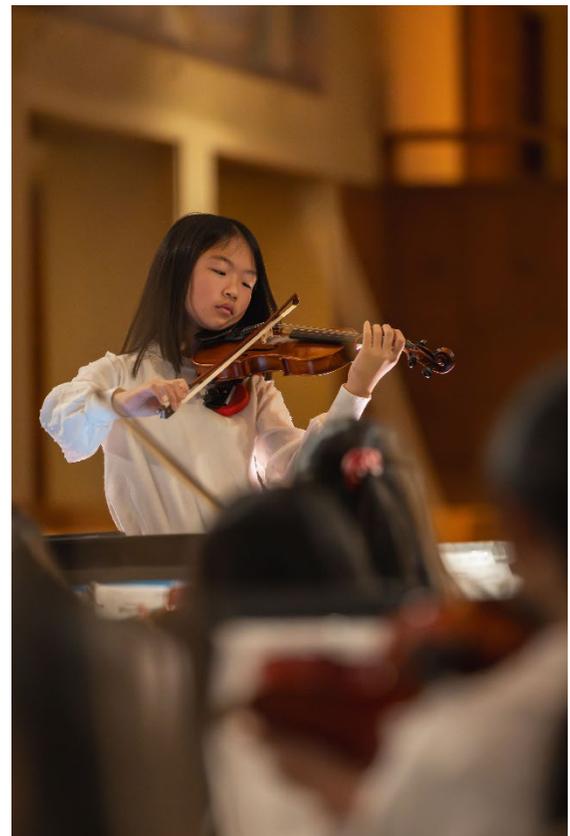
N/A

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra**

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

Founded in 1964, Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra (BYSO) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enriching young lives through high-quality orchestral music education and community engagement. Each year, we serve more than 1,000 students from across the Puget Sound region, including approximately 750 students in our academic-year ensembles and 200 students in our Summer Camps, providing rigorous musical training, mentorship, and performance opportunities for youth ages 6–18, regardless of background or financial means. Our academic-year program includes eight leveled orchestras and three specialized ensembles, creating a clear pathway from beginner to advanced, pre-professional training.

Through our Bridges Initiatives and Community Outreach Performances, we remove barriers to access by providing cost-free programming to Eastside residents. We currently offer free programming at all 14 Boys & Girls Club locations in Bellevue, serving nearly 300 students annually. We also provide private and semi-private music lessons at five public schools to students enrolled in their school music programs, currently serving more than 100 students. In addition, BYSO produces and performs in a number of admission-free community concerts bring the magic of live instrumental performance to more than 60,000 audience members annually.



Upcoming event: Winter Concert Series at Meydenbauer Center Theatre, March 14–16. This five-concert series will feature all 11 of our academic-year ensembles, showcase 650 student musicians, and welcome approximately 1,700 audience members from the community.

American Asian Performing Arts Theatre

2025-26 Award: \$8,000



The American Asian Performing Arts Theatre (AAPAT) is a non-profit organization founded in 2006 by Hengda Li. AAPAT is dedicated to the promotion and development of Asian cultural and performing arts. Through the active exchange of Eastern and Western traditions, AAPAT serves the community and remains steadfastly committed to advancing American multiculturalism.

Organization Details

- **Professional Scale:** Since its founding in 2006, AAPAT has created 62 distinct major productions and staged nearly 1,000 performances.
- **Geographic Reach:** In addition to local performances at McCaw Hall, Meany Hall, and the Meydenbauer Center Theatre, the organization has toured the entire West Coast, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Portland, and Vancouver.
- **Artistic Diversity:** AAPAT celebrates a full spectrum of performing arts, ranging from Classical Ballet and Bel Canto to traditional Chinese dance, etc.
- **Education and Youth:** The organization provides professional stages for all ages through the Rising Star and Young Talent series, as well as the HDA Adult Dance Gala.

Community Impact and Outreach

- **Global Recognition:** AAPAT recently led a delegation to an international singing competition involving 30 countries, bringing home Gold and Silver medals and international honor to the Greater Seattle Area.
- **Local Partnerships:** The organization provides volunteer performances and outreach for institutions including the Asian Art Museum, University of Washington, Starbucks, Microsoft, and various local schools and senior houses.

- Humanitarian Service: AAPAT has raised over \$20,000 for COVID-19 relief and donated 2,000 sleeping bags to earthquake victims.

For more information about our programs and performances, please visit asianperformingarts.org.

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