

ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC

Night Blooming Deaccession

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Community Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

Staff are seeking a recommendation to approve the deaccession of the artwork *Night Blooming*, by artists Taiji Miyasaka and David Drake, currently located at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. The artwork was donated to the city and installed in 2018, with the expectation that it would remain in good condition for at least 10 years, ideally 15. Following major repairs of rotten wood in November 2025, staff determined that it should be removed from public view by the fall of this year before further degradation occurs over the coming fall and winter.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff are seeking a motion from the commission to recommend the approval of the deaccession of *Night Blooming*, removing the artwork from the collection once it has been destroyed.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**History of the Artwork:**

Night Blooming was first commissioned by the Bellevue Arts Museum for its 2016 biennial, focusing on wood artworks. It was installed in the museum's roof courtyard and remained there for two years, well beyond the biennial. Following the biennial's conclusion, the artists, Taiji Miyasaka and David Drake, offered to donate the artwork to the city. Once a site was located at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, the city accepted the donation and began preparations for installation at the garden.

At the time of the donation, the anticipated lifespan of the work at the new location was 10-15 years, with the expectation that the wood structure would begin to break down and eventually be removed.

Night Blooming installed at the Bellevue Arts Museum before donation to the city.

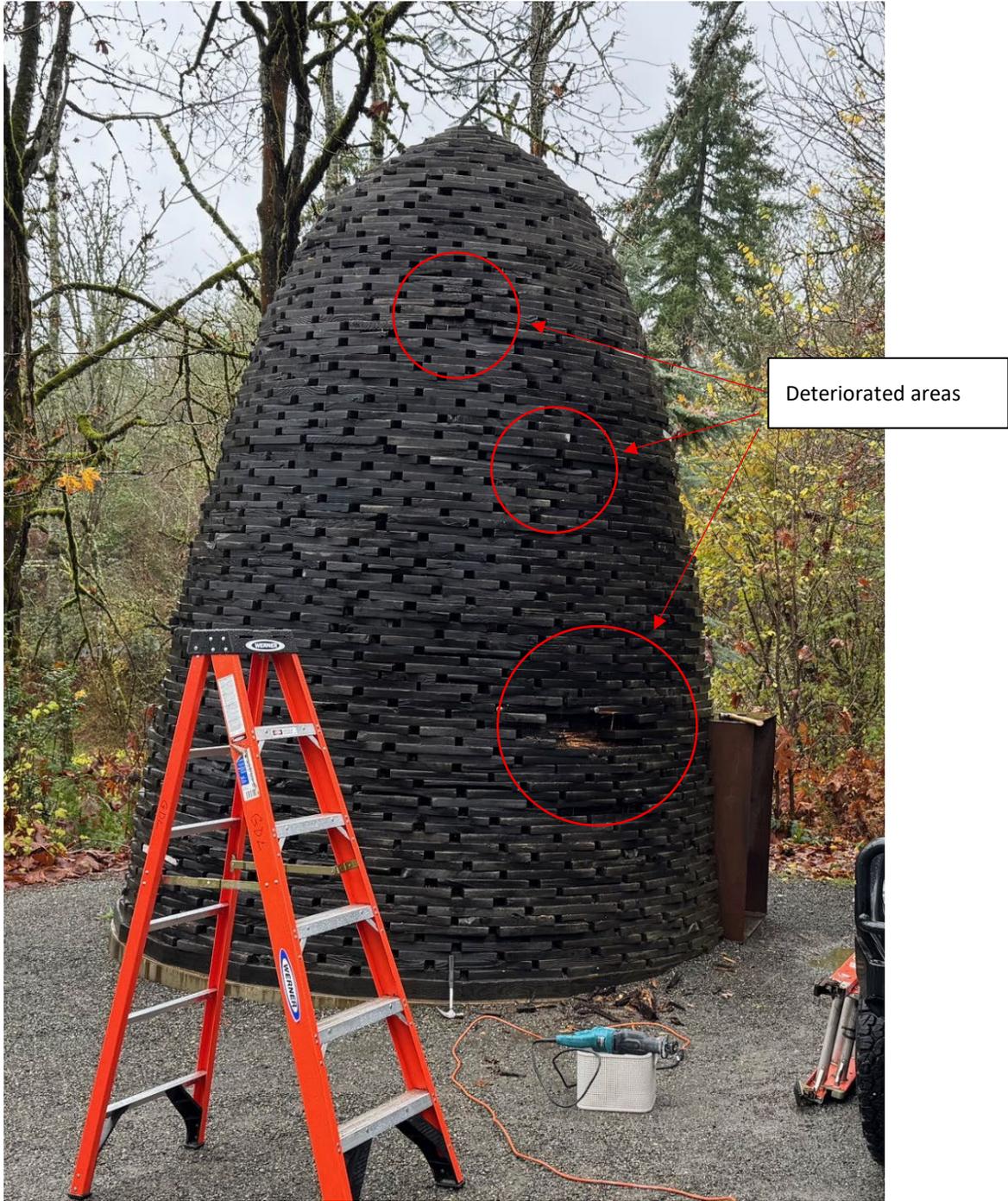


The artwork was installed at the Bellevue Botanical Garden on the Tateuchi Loop Trail in 2018, following the construction of an engineered foundation. The site was selected for its nature setting and the site particulars that the artwork could take advantage of, creating a series of views of the work as the trail approached from either direction.

The artwork was installed by a team of Washington State University students and the artists over two days. Since 2018, it has anchored this part of the loop trail, creating an attractive, well-loved destination for adults and kids.

Deteriorating Condition:

In 2025, it became visually apparent that the wood had rotted in a few areas and needed repair. One of the artists, Taiji Miyasaka, having some of the original spruce wood the piece was made of, offered to complete the repair with help from city staff. In November of 2025, extensive sections of the artwork were replaced, well beyond the visible damage.





Some of the repaired areas

While staff and the artist worked to remove clearly rotted sections of the artwork, much of the rot within the piece wasn't visually obvious. Often, what looked like one or two boards that had rotted turned out to be 10-15 rotted pieces.

Deaccession Recommendation:

As a point of clarification, Staff will remove the artwork and destroy it by the end of the summer for public safety purposes. Staff seeks the recommendation from the Commission to deaccession this

artwork from its inclusion in the public art collection. The key reason for the deaccession is to avoid a potential public safety issue in the future resulting from non-visible deterioration. Staff expect that the artwork will be removed at the end of the summer.

Given the complexity of installing the existing foundation and the beautiful site where *Night Blooming* now sits, the artwork's foundation will likely remain in place following the artwork's removal for potential repurposing in a future artwork opportunity.



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 items F. “Develop recommendations for acquiring public artwork consistent with guidelines and priorities approved by city council.”

Policy Impact

N/A

Fiscal Impact

Deaccession itself will not have a financial impact. The removal and destruction of the artwork will have a financial impact, although without contractor bids, it is currently unknown.

OPTIONS

1. Move to recommend the deaccession of the artwork *Night Blooming* by Taiji Miyasaka and David Drake from the Public Art Collection.
2. Do not move to recommend the deaccession of the artwork, although staff will likely facilitate its removal and destruction by the end of the summer for public safety purposes.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. N/A