

Information and Discussion

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 4:30 pm

Bellevue Arts Commission

1E-112 or Zoom Meeting

City of Bellevue, WA

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE: DRAFT ARTS AND CULTURE POLICIES

At today's meeting, staff is seeking **feedback** on draft of arts and culture policy amendment language within the Urban Design and the Arts Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Direction may be to affirm or consider additional updates to draft policies. Additional policy changes will be considered after the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update is released, and Planning Commission provides direction on the city's growth strategy.

Code and bylaw support: This item is presented to the Commission as it is supported by City Code 3.56.070 item I: "...participation with the planning commission in preparing, reviewing and recommending comprehensive plan updates and subarea plans; provided, that the planning commission shall review and make final recommendations to the city council on all matters which will be adopted by the city council as part of the comprehensive plan."

BACKGROUND

Project EXECUTIVE Summary

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan provides the roadmap for growth in the City. Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) directs counties and cities to update their Comprehensive Plans every 10 years. This update focuses on Volume 1, which contains the citywide policies and the land use map. The subarea plans in Volume 2 are generally not included in the periodic update. However, certain areas within the Wilburton/N.E. 8th St and BelRed subareas will be updated as part of this process, as they will undergo major land use changes to support growth.

Bellevue City Code directs the Arts Commission to "establish and maintain a long-range plan and strategic vision for the arts and culture in Bellevue . . . including participation with the planning commission in preparing, reviewing and recommending comprehensive plan updates and subarea plans; provided, that the planning commission shall review and make final recommendations to the city council on all matters which will be adopted by the city council as part of the comprehensive plan" (3.56.070.I).

At the previous meeting on November 2022, the Arts Commission reviewed and provided comments on the specific scope related to arts and culture, particularly within the Urban Design and the Arts Element (Attachment A).

COUNCIL DIRECTION

On February 28, 2022 the City Council directed the Planning Commission to manage the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. They directed the other boards and commissions to

contribute to the update by providing recommendations to the Elements and policies where their expertise lies.

CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

The state Growth Management Act directs cities and counties to update their comprehensive plans every 10 years (RCW 36.70A). The current update must be adopted by 2024. Within the state of Washington, a specific framework is utilized to ensure consistency and coordination between jurisdictions. The majority of this framework is outlined in RCW 36.70 and 36.70a. Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan is guided by policies in King County’s Countywide Planning Policies, Puget Sound Regional Council’s (PSRC’s) Vision 2050 and Multicounty Planning Policies, which are all created within the framework of the state’s Growth Management Act (GMA). The Arts Commission is directed by City code to participate in this process.

ARTS COMMISSION FEEDBACK

Staff presented on the scope of policy amendments on November 1, 2022, and received the following feedback:

- Emphasize the BelRed Arts District in the Comprehensive Plan
- Emphasize arts and culture opportunities in Neighborhood Centers
- Consider how recent art space survey factors into policy development
- Consider preservation of affordable space for artists to both work and live
- Capture private interest in arts and arts program, including murals and utility box wraps

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Note: The policy numbers below are for cross-reference with the current version of the Urban Design & The Arts Element and does not reflect final policy enumeration.

I. PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION for draft BelRed Arts District policy amendments
 Long-range planning staff worked together with Arts staff to develop three new draft policies that provide guidance on the BelRed Arts District and support more specific policies around the BelRed Arts District in the BelRed Subarea Plan.

Policy Number	Current Policy	Proposed Policy Amendments (New, Deleted, Retained)
NEW		Catalyze the activation of the BelRed Arts District as a unique destination focused on arts, culture, innovation, and nightlife.
NEW		Encourage bold and innovative visual identifiers that amplify the unique character of the BelRed Arts District within the built environment.
NEW		Identify and encourage creative business attraction and retention in the BelRed Arts District, including makerspaces and artisanal manufacturing.

II. PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION for draft Arts and Culture policy amendments

Long-range planning staff worked together with Arts staff to develop new and modified Arts and Culture draft amendment language. Several Arts and Culture policies are proposed to have minor modifications to strengthen language around the implementation of arts and culture opportunities. Updated language is more direct and action-oriented in how the City will support arts and cultural opportunities aligned with the long-range planning framework in the 2020 Economic Development Plan. Four new policies are proposed that provide guidance on new and/or emerging arts and culture opportunities. One policy previously in the Landmarks and Historic Resources section, UD-83, was relocated to the Arts and Culture section, and subsequently modified.

Policy Number	Current Policy	Proposed Policy Amendments (New, Deleted, Retained)
UD-5	Support community efforts to develop art that enhances neighborhood character, builds community, and engages residents in the artistic process.	<p>Support community efforts to develop Cultivate public art that enhances neighborhood identity character, builds community, and engages residents in the artistic process.</p> <p><i>Rationale for strike-through text: Provides more direct, action-oriented language. Reframes public art as a component of neighborhood identity rather than character.</i></p>
UD-13	Support and encourage art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding, and respect among the city's diverse population.	<p>Support and encourage Cultivate art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding, and respect among the city's diverse population.</p> <p><i>Rationale for strike-through text: Provides more direct, action-oriented language.</i></p>
UD-14	Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.	Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.
UD-15	Support and encourage the development of a wide array of cultural facilities throughout the city and the Eastside through local and regional strategies.	<p>Support and encourage the development of Provide for a wide array of arts and cultural facilities that serve throughout the city and the Eastside through local and regional strategies.</p> <p><i>Rationale for strike-through text: Provides more direct, action-oriented language.</i></p>

		<i>Broadens implementation tools for City to provide for arts and cultural facilities.</i>
UD-16	Support and encourage lifelong arts education for all skill levels.	Support and encourage lifelong arts education for all skill levels.
UD-17	Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.	Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas. <i>Rationale for strike-through text: This policy has been combined with UD-5.</i>
UD-18	Expand the city's public art collection and involve the community in the selection of new major items.	Expand the city's public art collection and involve the community in the selection of new major items.
UD-19	Support artists and arts groups working in the community through city programs and private partnerships.	Support artists and arts groups working in the community through city programs and private partnerships. <i>Rationale for strike-through text: Provides greater emphasis on the City's responsibility to develop programs for supporting artists and arts groups. Does not preclude the ability for the City to pursue partnerships.</i>
UD-20	Support and encourage the development of affordable space for artists and arts groups to practice, create, teach, perform, and present their art.	Support and encourage the development of Provide for affordable space for artists and arts groups to practice, create, teach, perform, and present their art. <i>Rationale for strike-through text: Provides more direct, action-oriented language.</i>
NEW		Encourage and enhance arts and cultural opportunities within Neighborhood Centers.
NEW		Utilize box wraps and similar art treatments where it can extend the usable life and deter vandalism of city owned equipment and facilities.
NEW		Develop a process for designating festival streets that can be temporarily closed to vehicular traffic for pedestrian-oriented activities.

NEW		Support partnerships and spaces for cross-cultural programming that contribute to intercultural engagement, learning, and exchange.
UD-83	Recognize the heritage of the community by naming (or renaming) parks, streets and other public places after major figures and events.	Recognize and affirm the diverse heritages of within the community through artistic expression and placemaking. by naming (or renaming) parks, streets and other public places after major figures and events. <i>Rationale for strike-through text: Broadens opportunities to recognize heritage beyond naming.</i>

DISCUSSION

Commissions may choose to provide feedback on the overall direction of draft policies, including if any key topics are missing or if there are other considerations in how these policies guide future implementation of arts & culture opportunities.

Additional changes will be considered after the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update is released and the direction that the Planning Commission will provide on the city's growth strategy.

NEXT STEPS

The state requires the Plan be adopted no later than 2024. For Bellevue, the staff-recommended timeline takes the more conservative approach of planning for Council to adopt the Plan as early as June 2024. This way the City will have time to address any unforeseen circumstances prior to the deadline.

The planned engagement timeline for Arts Commission is as follows:

Fall 2023: (Action) Final review full draft of the arts and culture policies in the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (CPPU) and provide policy recommendations to the Planning Commission.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Urban Design and the Arts Element

STAFF CONTACT

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