



DATE: June 11, 2024

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Emil King AICP, Department Director, 452-7223
Community Development

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Council VISION 2050 Award

Staff will provide a brief presentation about the 2024 Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) VISION 2050 Award that the City received for Bellevue 2044 – Building a Livable City for All. This is the City's community engagement strategy used for the 2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Plan.

PSRC's mission is to advance solutions to achieve a thriving, racially equitable and sustainable central Puget Sound region through leadership, visionary planning, and collaboration. PSRC is composed of nearly 100 members, including the region's four counties, cities, towns, Tribal governments, ports, and state and local transportation agencies within the region. It represents the geographic area comprised of King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

The VISION 2050 Awards celebrate progress to enhance the region's communities and natural environment while advancing equity and opportunity for all. The awards recognize innovative work in the region to create a better future for central Puget Sound. The award was announced at the PSRC General Assembly on May 30. Josh Brown, PSRC Executive Director, will be in attendance at the June 11 Council meeting to formally present the award.

Bellevue 2044 – Building a Livable City for All is the City's call to action for the community to be involved in the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Over the past two and a half years, the City's planning team has worked with the community to identify development priorities, address key challenges, tackle the need for more housing, and center equity. This engagement effort included a range of methods and tools to involve as many community members as possible through 78 events, a statistically valid survey, and online and mailed questionnaires. To date, over 7,000 individuals have been engaged in the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update.

The City received the VISION 2050 Award under the Planning Ahead category which is awarded for plans, outreach programs, and other similar efforts that are shaping a positive future for the region. The City last won a VISION 2050 award in 2022 for the Mobility Implementation Plan.

The award judges noted that Bellevue is one of the most diverse cities in the region, with nearly half of its population born outside of the United States. Recognizing the unique population, the city set out to develop a Comprehensive Plan that could be reflective of the entire community. It can be difficult to interest the community in the long-range planning process to begin with, but hearing from a variety of truly representative voices can be even more so. Bellevue was successful using a combination of traditional outreach methods with creative new approaches, achieving a large and meaningful response rate. The city's work with community liaisons built strong partnerships that can continue to provide insights into the city's work long into the future. The extensive use of translation options resulted in a greater diversity of participants. Bellevue has a lot to be proud of with this work."

This award recognizes the outstanding work of staff across departments and extensive involvement of the community, and underscores what the City can achieve together as One City. The work was led by staff in the Community Development Department's Comprehensive Plan Update team: Emil King, Director; Thara Johnson, Planning Manager; Brooke Brod, Community Engagement Lead; Kate Nesse, Senior Planner; and Bryce Williams-Tuggle, Demographer.