

Innovation Updates

Progress, Partnerships and Planning

Sabra Schneider, PJ Rodriguez, Molly Bandel
Information Technology Department

February 3, 2026





Information Only

This presentation is information only.



Agenda

1. Background
2. Progress toward work plan
3. Next steps

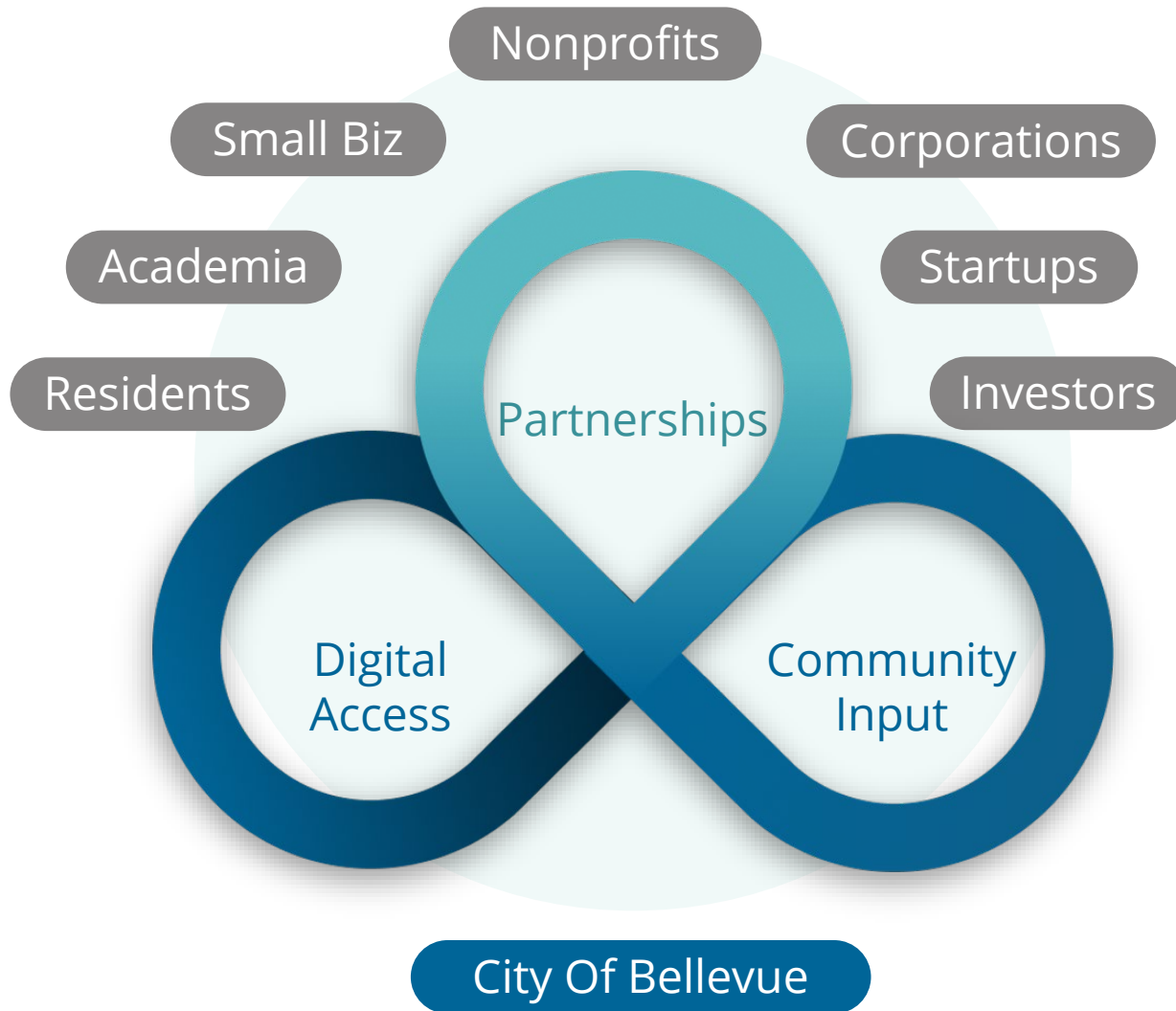


Background: Council Vision

Innovation is an integral part of our community. We embrace and support innovation in all aspects of our community – systems, institutions, businesses, schools and government. This innovative spirit is crucial to Bellevue's success.



Grounded in Partnerships



Civic Innovation Exchange

273 attendees at the Civic Innovation Exchange

48 speakers and panelists, 13 education sessions, 14 governments represented, 5 educational institutions, and 76 businesses and non-profits.



Civic Innovation Challenge

- Launched the inaugural Civic Innovation Challenge in Partnership with Bellevue College
 - 24 applicants
 - 1 youth applicant
- Working with four applicants
 - Certivo
 - FindIt (youth participant)
 - Juganu
 - Legislaide



Sub-team Progress

- Formed three sub-teams seeking to:
 - Support and enhance digital equity
 - Augment policies and priorities
 - Grow thriving innovation Ecosystems
- Adopted nine short-term goals in June of 2025
 - 5 accomplished/ongoing
 - 3 in progress
 - 1 not started



Subteams working onsite at the 3rd Innovation Forum meeting.

Progress Highlights



Innovation Ecosystems

- Launched the inaugural civic challenge
- Hosted the Innovation Exchange event
- Smart City Hackathon with Bellevue College



Policy and Priorities

- Council adopted Innovation Resolution
- Community informed AI operational policies adopted



Digital Equity

- Hosted a device drive
- Offered AI for small business workshop



Growing Innovation Partnerships



Public Sector

- Fosters sustainable innovation across the region
- Allows shared learning and growth
- Enhances funding opportunities



Private Sector

- Positions region as a place where innovation thrives
- Brings together public, private, non-profit, community perspectives
- Supports equity



Next Steps

Digital Equity: Device distribution pilot.
Federal grant deployment.

Second Civic Innovation Challenge:
Increase design partnerships to test
innovative ideas.

Civic Innovation Exchange: June 2026
Bring together community, public
sector, and businesses to test, learn,
and support regional innovation.

Partnerships: Continue growing public
and private partnerships.





Information Only

