

ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC

Emerging Artist Projects – Artist Selections

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Community Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

Staff will present their recommendations for two Emerging Artist Projects: one in Lake Hills and another in Lakemont. The commission will be asked to endorse the recommended artists.

RECOMMENDATION

For action: A motion to endorse the recommended two artists, as presented, for the upcoming Emerging Artist Projects in Lake Hills and Lakemont.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**History of program**

In late 2023, Bellevue launched a pilot for emerging artists to design and install a new public artwork for Crossroads Park. Called “Jumping Scale,” the original opportunity was created as a supportive yet catalytic opportunity for an artist to learn about being a public artist while completing a substantial permanent project. For this pilot, a panel selected the Seattle-based glass artist Anna Mlasowsky. Paired with the established artist Jill Anholt as her mentor, Anna Mlasowsky created three dichroic glass-and-steel artworks and installed them on light poles throughout Crossroads Park in late 2025.

Not only was the project a clear success, but it was also delivered within two years, faster than most recent public art projects, which have taken anywhere between 4 and 8 years to complete.

About the new call

For this second round of projects, staff mapped out locations of existing public art throughout the city. Two neighborhoods stood out as major gaps – Lake Hills, which has one public artwork, and Lakemont, which has zero public artworks. Following the model of the original pilot, staff developed two new opportunities for these neighborhoods, with the goal of completing projects within a two-year timeline. A single artist call was developed for the two opportunities.

The project in Lake Hills will be located in Lake Hills Community Park, a roughly 11-acre community park just north of Phantom Lake next to Tillicum Middle School and along the Lake to Lake Trail. The park is a mix of play and lawn areas, two ball fields, a basketball court and large fir trees.

The project in Lakemont will be at the north trail entrance to Lewis Creek Park on Lakemont Boulevard or just within the park along that same trail entrance. Lewis Creek Park is a 55-acre park, with the majority of it undeveloped natural areas such as wetlands. Lewis Creek Park is also the headwater of Lewis Creek, includes ball fields and other active uses, lots of trails and boardwalks and a main park building that can be used for events and programs.

Number of applicants

In total, 83 artists applied to the artist call. Of those, 76 artists met the eligibility requirements. A seven-member artist selection panel was convened to select six finalists. The panel members included:

- Charles McIntire, Arts Commissioner
- Hong Shi, American Asian Performing Arts Theatre in Lake Hills
- Genevieve Tremblay, Lake Hills area resident and artist
- Randi Belcher, Experience Art Studio in Lakemont
- Aybi Taner, Lakemont resident and artist
- Anna Mlasowsky, artist and pilot program artist
- Tommy Gregory, artist, curator and manager of SeaTac Airport Arts Program

The panel selected six artists as finalists. The finalists were interviewed by city staff and the recommendation to be presented to the commission is staff's recommendation for the two selected artists. The Commission will receive updated information on the recommended artists at the meeting. A mentor will be selected by staff for each artist to complement their specific skill sets and areas of need.

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 F. "Develop recommendations for acquiring public artwork consistent with guidelines and priorities approved by city council;"

Policy Impact

These projects support key city Comprehensive Plan policies including:

UD-48. Cultivate public art that enhances neighborhood identity, builds community and engages the community in the artistic process.

UD-50. Cultivate art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding and respect among the city's diverse population. UD-51. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.

UD-54. Expand the city's public art collection and involve the community in the selection of new major items.

Fiscal Impact

Each project has a total budget of \$112,544, which includes the artist's design budget (\$75,000) and elements separately managed by the city, including mentor fees, engineering, permitting and foundation installation.

OPTIONS

1. Pass a motion to endorse the recommended two artists, as presented, for the upcoming Emerging Artist Projects in Lake Hills and Lakemont.

2. Do not endorse the recommendation presented by staff.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A