

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing the execution of a general services contract regarding fabrication and installation of a public artwork as part of the BelRed Subarea Plan with artist Po Shu Wang, in an amount not to exceed \$160,000, plus all applicable taxes, to build and install artwork, celebrate the BelRed Arts District, and support the growth of tourism in BelRed.

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Community Development Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes a General Services Contract with artist Po Shu Wang to fabricate and install a public artwork designed in collaboration with the BelRed Subarea Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10106

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On May 10, 2020, staff presented to Council on the final design of the new artwork for the BelRed neighborhood near the light rail station at 130th and Spring Blvd. Staff has worked with Po Shu Wang (Artist) to finalize the contract details. The final, signed contract is attached for Council action.

History and Background

In 2009, Council approved the *BelRed Subarea Plan*, establishing a vision for an arts district in the BelRed neighborhood. In adopting this document, the City Council expressed support for bold, visionary public spaces and art elements in this rapidly transforming area of town.

As part of the implementation of the Arts District, the artwork, designed specifically for the northeast corner of 130th Avenue NE and Spring Boulevard, includes a stainless steel form with interactive components including lighting and sound recordings of BelRed musicians that are triggered by pedestrian users. This will have long-term benefits for the City's tourism development, economic development efforts, and residents' quality of life.

According to Americans for the Arts, "49% of people with a college degree (52% of millennials and 54% of Gen X) say they would strongly consider whether a community is rich in the arts when deciding to relocate for a job." This indicates that public art provides a significant talent attraction and talent retention benefit for cities with otherwise strong economies. The piece will also provide additional opportunities for creative interaction and local interest directly adjacent to the 130th Light Rail station. The Center for Creative Community Development estimates that for every \$1 spent by arts and culture-related visitors, \$3 to \$7 is invested in the local community, through ancillary spending on overnight lodging, food and beverage, and other steps in the arts production chain.

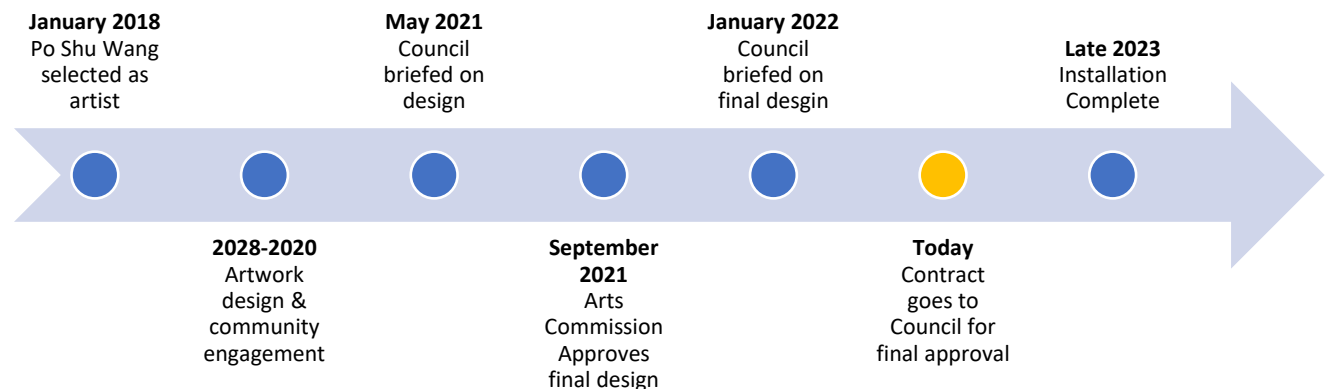
The City's investment in the artwork's fabrication and installation will help position Bellevue for a stronger recovery as the region exits the COVID-related economic disruption. This artwork, created by internationally acclaimed artist Po Shu Wang will help anchor the arts district as a regional destination for the arts, therefor, promoting tourism. Mr. Wang was born in Hong Kong, and educated in Rome, Italy. Completed artworks by the artist can be found throughout the globe, including Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Calgary, Canada, and Drammen, Norway.

Delivery Timeline

In November 2017, Po Shu Wang was selected from a pool of 69 applicants by a diverse panel of community members made up of local professional artists, BelRed creative business owners, and one member each from the Bellevue Arts Commission and the Bellevue Transportation Commission. The Arts Commission approved the selection panel's choice in January 2018.

Following contracting in 2018, in early 2019, artwork concept design began, with a high level of community engagement. On April 9, 2019, the artist presented concepts for discussion to the Arts Commission, with updates in October & December 2020. The artwork design was presented to Council on May 10, 2021.

On September 9, 2021, the Arts Commission voted to approve the final artwork design. Once the contract is approved by City Council, engineering and fabrication will begin. All construction and installation activities are currently projected for completion by the end of Q4 2023.



POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

This action does not modify policy, but aligns with implementation of several existing policies:

- *Comprehensive Plan*. This project aligns with the Urban Design & The Arts, and the Economic Development elements of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan. It directly aligns with the following policies:
 - **ED-14**. Recognize arts and cultural investments are an explicit component of the City's economic development strategy
 - **UD-17**. Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.
 - **UD-18**. Expand the City's public art collection and involve the community through City programs and private partnerships.
- *BelRed Subarea Plan*. Adopted in 2009
 - **S-BR-24**. Encourage private and public use of public art to enrich design aesthetics and add character, identity, and a sense of place.
 - **S-BR-46**. Provide funding for public art in the Bel-Red area.
 - **S-BR-47**. Promote public art, cultural activities and urban design that reflect the Bel-Red area's character, heritage, and ecology, with emphasis in the following areas:
 - a. Integration of public art into publicly accessible spaces, both privately and publicly developed;
 - b. Inclusion of public art in transportation projects, including transit projects; and
 - c. Incorporation of public art in interpretation and celebration of stream corridor improvements and other environmental enhancements.
- *Economic Development Plan*. Adopted in 2020, this plan includes strategies to:
 - **CE-2**. Develop the built and institutional infrastructure needed to position the BelRed Arts District as a major destination.
- *Cultural Compass*. Adopted in 2004. The City's cultural plan envisions vibrant cultural districts. The Compass also calls for the use of public art and graphics to enhance the energy and visibility of culture/commercial districts. Among the eight goals, are specific strategies that support this project:
 - Strategy 2.2. Develop distinct and differentiated "arts, culture, and entertainment (ACE) areas" in Bellevue's Downtown, Crossroads, the Factoria-Eastgate corridor, and other areas of the City.
 - Strategy 7.1. Confirm and build the City's leadership role in supporting arts and culture.

Fiscal Impact

This general services contract includes total expenditures of \$160,000 plus all applicable taxes.

Sufficient funding exists in the 2021-2027 General CIP Public Art Program (CIP Plan No. CD-11) and Enhanced Right of Way and Urban Boulevards (ERUB) (CIP Plan No. CD-22) to fully fund this contract.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the execution of a general services contract regarding fabrication and installation of a public artwork as part of the BelRed Subarea Plan with artist Po Shu Wang, in an amount not to exceed \$160,000, plus all applicable taxes, to build and install artwork, celebrate the BelRed Arts District, and support the growth of tourism in BelRed.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. CIP Project Description (CD-11)
 - B. CIP Project Description (CD-22)
- Proposed Resolution No. 10106

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

130th Streetscape General Services Contract between the City of Bellevue and Po Shu Wang
BelRed Subarea Plan (adopted 2009)
Economic Development Plan (adopted 2020)
Cultural Compass (adopted 2004)
Artwork Final Design – 130th