

CONTINUATION OF UTILITY BOX WRAPS PROGRAM

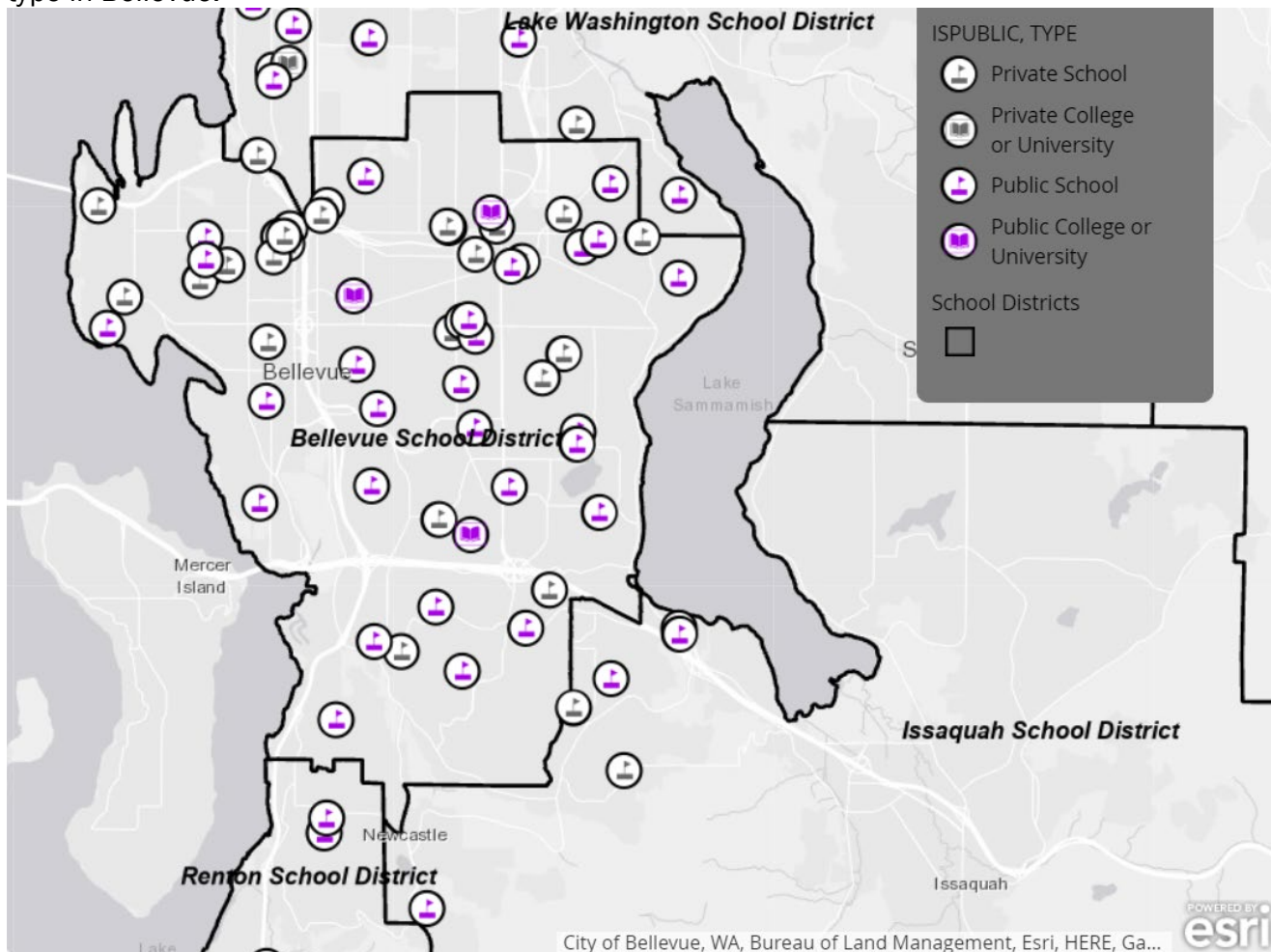
At today's meeting, staff will present proposals for future phases of the Utility Box Wrap Program in Bellevue.

BACKGROUND

At the close of the second round of utility box wraps, staff has come up with several different directions that future phases of the program could go. The program has received great praise from artists, community members, and the city council. There is a desire to expand the program to cover more neighborhoods in Bellevue, and staff has worked this desire into the below proposals.

2023 ONWARD

Staff is proposing that the 2023 program focus on students in Bellevue. Like past public artwork projects, such as the Children Tiles program along NE 8th Street, this third phase could involve artwork from students enrolled in public and private schools in Bellevue. There are several ways this could work, which are outlined below. The budget for 2023 is \$40,000, which includes artist stipends, permitting, and installation costs. Both project proposals would focus on covering new utility boxes near schools throughout all Bellevue. Below is a map demonstrating all the schools by type in Bellevue.



K-8 program

This program would be for eligible children enrolled in a school in Bellevue from kindergarten through eighth grade. The call would be focused on collecting submissions from students of existing or new artworks (up to 5 or 10), and a panel would select artworks to cover boxes in a collage style; see below for examples. Boxes could feature themes or a diverse collection of drawings.



Highschool and College

This program would be for eligible students enrolled in a school in Bellevue from high school through college. The call would be similar to previous calls, where artists would be assigned a box and create a design for the whole box.

For both programs, staff will reach out to teachers and school staff to promote the program, and explore ways to partner with classes and students.

OPTIONS

The commission could choose a variety of options for this third program.

Option 1: Call only eligible for K-8

Option 2: Call only eligible for Highschool and College

Option 3: A combination of both – two separate calls for artists

Option 4: Neither and instead a call with a different approach to be explored more.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will consider the discussion today and put together a call for artists to be presented at a future meeting.

STAFF CONTACT

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