

# Information & Discussion

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Bellevue Arts Commission

Zoom Meeting: 4:30 pm

Commission Staff Contact: 425.452.4064

## Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update: Arts Scope

At this meeting, staff is providing **information** on the scope of the update to the plan related to arts and culture in the Comprehensive Plan. Direction may be to continue with the recommended scope, expand the scope or narrow the scope.

### BACKGROUND

#### Project EXECUTIVE Summary

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan provides the roadmap for growth in the City. Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) directs counties and cities to update their Comprehensive Plans every 10 years. This update focuses on Volume 1, which contains the citywide policies and the land use map. Both Wilburton and BelRed are included as particular focus areas amongst the potential updates to this map as part of this process. The subarea plans in Volume 2 are updated on a rolling basis and not included in the periodic update.

Bellevue City Code directs the Arts Commission to "establish and maintain a long-range plan and strategic vision for the arts and culture in Bellevue (i.e., Cultural Compass), including participation with the planning commission in preparing, reviewing and recommending comprehensive plan updates and subarea plans; provided, that the planning commission shall review and make final recommendations to the city council on all matters which will be adopted by the city council as part of the comprehensive plan" (3.56.070.I). The Commission was introduced to the overall scope of the update at the meeting on May 3, 2022. At the meeting on November 1, 2022, the Arts Commission will review and provide comments on the specific scope related to arts and culture, particularly within the Urban Design and the Arts Element.

For reference, the existing Urban Design and the Arts Element is attached. Reviewing this document at a high level can help provide an understanding of the detail level and scope appropriate to a Comprehensive Plan. Relevant policies also exist in the Land Use; Neighborhoods; Housing; Economic Development; and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Elements, which can be found on the city's Comprehensive Plan website.

### COUNCIL DIRECTION

On February 28, 2022 the City Council directed the Planning Commission to manage the Comprehensive Planning Periodic Update. They directed the other boards and commissions to contribute to the update by providing update recommendations to the Elements and policies where their expertise lies.

### CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

The state Growth Management Act directs cities and counties to update their comprehensive plans every 10 years (RCW 36.70A). The current update must be adopted by 2024. Within the state of Washington, a specific framework is utilized to ensure consistency and coordination between jurisdictions. The majority of this framework is outlined in RCW 36.70 and 36.70a. Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan is guided by policies in King County's Countywide Planning Policies, Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC's) Vision 2050 and Multicounty Planning Policies, which are all

created within the framework of the state’s Growth Management Act (GMA). The Arts Commission is directed by City code to participate in this process.

OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED

Each element of the Comprehensive Plan includes introductory narrative text and a number of polices that are divided into topical sections. The introductory text gives some history of the City, provides the planning context, and an explanation of the policy direction that the City is taking. This will be updated in 2023. Right now, the project team is considering the detailed scope of changes for the policies. Such changes include:

- 1. Addition of new policies: Adding policies that are needed because of changed conditions or future needs.
- 2. Repeal of policies: Repealing policies that are no longer relevant or in conflict with state, regional, county or City direction.
- 3. Modification of policies: Modifications could include minor text edits to correct typos or awkward wording or major edits that reflect the revised policy intent and that impact the application of the policy.
- 4. Move policies: Occasionally, there are policies that fit better in another element.

The team is also considering renaming or reorganizing the sub-sections within the policy section of each element. Across all policies, staff will be looking at the impact of the polices on equity and may include changes that would result in more equitable distribution of impacts or services.

Additionally, narrative language may be adjusted to reflect shifted priorities, approach, or conditions. For instance, staff are expecting to adjust narrative language in both the Urban Design and the Arts and Economic Development Elements to shift the way in which art and culture is referenced. Rather than focusing on physical art, the language should more broadly describe how art and culture is woven through city planning and the urban experience. Policy amendments as described below are also proposed to address this shift.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION for scope of policy amendments

Long-range planning staff have worked together with Arts staff to review each policy and recommend the following preliminary scope of changes. Additional potential policy amendments may emerge from Arts Commission engagement and through the public involvement process. The scope is organized by topic area. Many of these amendments include bringing key policies from the 2004 Cultural Compass into the Comprehensive Plan alongside new policies addressing changed conditions and priorities.

Commissioners may choose to provide feedback on the range of policy amendments described below, including if any key topics are missing or if there are concerns with any of the proposed amendment concepts. Staff will be back before the commission in the spring with specific amendment language to review.

Placemaking.

Changed Circumstances	Potential Policy Amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emphasis on Neighborhood Centers (Commercial or mixed use areas within predominantly residential areas of the city)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include neighborhood art and culture uses as land uses encouraged in Neighborhood Centers</li><li>• Support capacity building for arts and culture uses</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest in defining unique characters across Bellevue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift language to incorporate art and culture in a broader way, referencing not only physical art and culture spaces but also the experiences they can create</li> <li>Strengthen language encouraging incorporation of arts and culture facilities in order to create unique places</li> <li>More creatively considering art treatments, unique signage, or other features as important placemaking opportunities</li> <li>Emphasize importance of historic and cultural resources across Bellevue</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for large arts center, outdoor event space, and other arts and culture gathering places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support creation of event space outside Downtown</li> </ul>

#### *Land Use Incentives.*

Changed Circumstances	Potential Policy Amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More TOD focus areas</li> <li>Further definition of BelRed Arts District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider arts systems, in addition to existing physical art, as benefiting the public good</li> <li>Encourage arts and cultural uses as part of land use and development incentives</li> </ul>

#### *Affordable Housing*

Changed Circumstances	Potential Policy Amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further definition of BelRed Arts District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for development of affordable artists' housing</li> </ul>

#### *BelRed Arts District.*

Changed Circumstances	Potential Policy Amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further definition of BelRed Arts District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Housing and land use amendments described above)</li> <li>Additional narrative and policies supporting the clear definition of the Arts District</li> </ul>

### **NEXT STEPS**

The state requires the Plan be adopted no later than 2024. For Bellevue, the staff-recommended timeline takes the more conservative approach of planning for Council to adopt the Plan as early as June 2024. This way the City will have time to address any unforeseen circumstances prior to the deadline.

The planned engagement timeline for Arts Commission is as follows:

November 2022: (Direction) Discuss staff recommendations to the arts and culture policies at a high level.

Spring 2023: (Direction) Review initial draft of arts and culture policy amendment language.

Late Summer 2023: (Action) Review full draft of the Comprehensive Plan Update and provide Arts Commission policy recommendation for transmittal to the Planning Commission.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Urban Design and the Arts Element

**STAFF CONTACT**

Elizabeth Erickson, Senior Planner  
425-452-2890, [eerickson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:eerickson@bellevuewa.gov)