

Information & Discussion

Tuesday December 6, 2022

Bellevue Arts Commission

1E-109 or Zoom, 4:30 pm

Commission Staff Contact: 425.452.4064

Eastrail Public Arts Shared Principles

At today's meeting, Katherine Hollis, executive director of [Eastrail Partners](#), will share how her organization lead the eight owner-agencies of the 42-mile Eastrail corridor to a shared vision of how to approach public arts opportunities along the trail. She will also highlight how the Bellevue Arts Commission can take this into consideration with future Bellevue projects, as well as engage on projects within King County ownership in Bellevue.

BACKGROUND

The 42-mile Eastrail corridor runs from Renton to Snohomish, WA, with eight involved jurisdictions, including King and Snohomish Counties, the Cities of Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Woodinville, Sound Transit and Puget Sound Energy. All of these entities approach public arts differently. The Eastrail Regional Advisory Council, or RAC, is made up of elected officials from these entities to move the vision for a shared trail forward. Eastrail Partners, as the nongovernmental organization formed to help unify and catalyze the Eastrail, worked with RAC entities to help identify what a shared approach to public arts along the Eastrail could look like going forward. While there is some art and public events space along the trail, we set out to find ways for a holistic approach to defining what public art means for the Eastrail and how to incorporate principles for all eight entities.

Goals of shared Eastrail Public Arts Principles:

- Create a more unified user experience.
- Create a meaningful and impactful way for communities to be involved in Eastrail planning.
- Support arts coordinators and commissions from different jurisdictions to collaborate and incorporate trail-adjacent work that takes advantage of the linear nature of the corridor.
- Help synthesize existing public art plans and programs from member entities and provide guidelines and strategies for expanding the current vision for arts and cultural initiatives along the corridor.

These different processes will continue to shape public art along the trail, and the RAC is excited to continue to see the development of public art throughout the Eastrail. In the interest of continuity across the trail corridor, the RAC commits to the following principles as they continue to work within the Eastrail's respective communities on the development and implementation of public art along the Eastrail.

Processes for RAC entity input:

- Eastrail Partners brought together staff from Eastrail entities and arts specialists over the course of a year to identify processes already in place; what wasn't being considered; how to incorporate equity; and more.
- We met with arts specialists from Bellevue, Renton, Redmond, and Kirkland
- Reviewed current city principles, other examples of principles
- Drafted current principles
- Recirculated with staff and arts specialists
- Reviewed with 4Culture

This resulted in presenting a **draft Guiding Principles document** that was shared with the Eastrail RAC, and including both Guiding Principles and identified processes. The following are excerpts from the still DRAFT Eastrail Public Arts Framework:

Eastrail Public Art Guiding Principles

- *Equity*
- *Inclusion and Belonging*
- *Context and Interconnection*
- *Collaboration*
- *Unique while cohesive*
- *Not Just Visual Art*
- *Make the ordinary extraordinary*

Eastrail Public Art Processes

- *Where possible, Eastrail RAC entities should seek to coordinate the planning of arts to ensure effective use of the Eastrail corridor as a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive place, using agreed-upon guiding principles.*
- *RAC entities should coordinate the partner planning process for the trail, high-capacity transit, and utility uses in planning for public arts along the corridor. Where a RAC entity may be developing a portion of the trail in another jurisdiction, affected cities shall be involved with local planning and development of arts projects.*
- *When there is the possibility of developing public art across multiple entities, we should seek to coordinate on design, development and funding, to bring meaningful community engagement and public art opportunities with an eye on the complete Eastrail corridor.*
- *Jurisdictions will follow their already-defined arts processes while keeping these principles as a lens in their work.*

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION

While the Eastrail through the City of Bellevue is owned by King County, it most definitely is and will be an integral part of the city. The trail's viewshed is also part of Bellevue.

To that end, the hope with this framework is to create transparency on how Eastrail public arts can be approached going forward and how true collaboration between entities is a priority.

CONTACT

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