

## 2022 Year-In-Review

At today's meeting, staff will present a high-level review of the 2022 Arts Program work.

### ARTS GRANTS

Grants continue to be an important part of supporting and fostering a vibrant arts community. This year, with input and guidance from our arts community, the grants were restructured to better serve our constituents. The Arts Program also received a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts that will pass through to these grantees.

Recommended 2023 grants are scheduled to go to Council in early December. More details about the 2022 and 2023 grants are below:

#### 2021 Grants:

- Total funds: \$145,000
- Total requests: \$272,530
- Awarded organizations or artists: 43

#### 2023 Grants:

- Total funds: \$181,000
- Total requests: \$454,295
- Awarded organizations or artists: 41
- Most ever applications; 53 total

### PUBLIC ART

Public art projects took essential steps forward in 2022. These included:

- **Downtown Park NE Corner Artwork by Marc Fornes** – This project is currently in fabrication and will be installed in early 2023.
- **130<sup>th</sup> Streetscape Artwork by Po Shu Wang** – Fabrication is underway.
- **BelRed Streetscape Artwork Concepts by Jill Anholt** – Final designs will go to the Commission in early 2023.
- **Portable Art Collection** – 29 new portable artworks were added to the collection this year. The 2020 acquired artworks are currently finding more “permanent” homes in City buildings.
- **Public Art Collection Maintenance and Restorations** – Staff contracted with Artech again this year to perform annual maintenance work on the collection and restoration of artworks, including Longboat. Staff are exploring a longer-term contract for maintenance for future years.
- **Utility Boxes** – The second phase of the Utility Box Wraps Program proved highly successful, covering eleven locations in Downtown Bellevue.

### BELLWETHER

This year, Bellwether experimented with a lighter schedule of events and installations, focusing for the first time on more online and augmented art. The City partnered with Future Arts and PACE to deliver an installation of an augmented reality artwork in City Hall and at Compass Plaza and a panel discussion, respectively. Staff also worked with four local artists on a week-long digital residency on Bellwether's Instagram, reaching thousands of people across the world and even going viral a handful of times.

## **BELRED ARTS DISTRICT**

The BelRed Arts District has continued to gain momentum and notoriety, with the first-ever steps taken this year to convene stakeholders regularly. The district also has its own Instagram page now with over 1,000 followers and staff are working with a graphic designer to develop an official logo and website for the Arts District.

This year, staff also contracted with Artspace to conduct a survey, garnering over 400 responses with insightful feedback for the needs of local artists and organizations for affordable space and housing. A final report and next steps will continue in 2023.

## **ARTS COMMISSION**

This year, the Arts Commission's meetings returned to in-person (hybrid) for the first time since the pandemic started. The Commission also said farewell to Carl Wolfteich and welcomed Erika Enomoto.

## **STAFF**

This year we celebrated Lorie Hoffman's one-year anniversary working at the City and welcomed a new intern, Sofia Gerrard, who is helping collect surveys for the Arts and Economic Prosperity study.

## **UPCOMING IN 2023**

Staff will present an update on the 2023 work plan and budget to the commission early next year.

## **STAFF CONTACTS**

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