

Chapter 3.56

ARTS COMMISSION

Sections:

- 3.56.010 Arts commission established.**
- 3.56.020 Officers.**
- 3.56.030 Meetings.**
- 3.56.040 Council communications.**
- 3.56.050 Bylaws and procedures.**
- 3.56.060 Staff support.**
- 3.56.070 Powers and duties.**
- 3.56.080 Limitations.**

3.56.010 Arts commission established.

There shall be an arts commission of the city of Bellevue. As used in this chapter, the term “art” or “arts” shall include, but not be limited to, all graphic and visual arts, performing skills and crafts.

A. *Membership and Appointment.* The arts commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the mayor following the consent of a majority of the city council. Commission members shall be appointed without respect to political affiliation and shall serve without compensation. The council liaison may recommend appointment of a nonvoting ex-officio member.

B. *Eligibility.* Members of the arts commission must be residents of the city of Bellevue. A member of the commission may not serve on the board of directors of an arts organization receiving city funding.

C. *Terms of Office.* The term for all positions on the commission shall be four years. Each position shall expire on May 31st of the last year of the term. The expiration date of the terms of the positions on the commission shall be staggered so that no more than four positions expire in the same year.

No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms, provided a person appointed to fill an unexpired term of less than two years is eligible to serve two successive four-year terms, and provided further, a person who is ineligible to serve for having served two consecutive terms may again serve after two years have elapsed from the end of the second such term.

D. *Vacancies, Removal of Commission Members, and Filling of Unexpired Terms.*

1. The position of a member of the arts commission shall become vacant upon such member ceasing to be a resident of the city.

2. Members of the commission may be removed at any time by the mayor, upon approval of a majority of the city council, for neglect of duty, conflict of interest, unexcused absence from three consecutive regular meetings of the commission, or for any reason deemed sufficient by a majority of the council. The decision of the council shall be final and there shall be no appeal.

3. Vacancies occurring for reasons other than the expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by appointment by the mayor upon approval of a majority of the council.

E. *Ethical Standards.* Commission members shall be held to high ethical standards and shall at all times comply with the provisions of Chapter [3.92](#) BCC, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended. (Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

3.56.020 Officers.

A chair, vice chair and other officers as the commission deems necessary shall be elected annually from its members. The chair shall preside at meetings; the vice chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the chair. (Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

3.56.030 Meetings.

A. The commission shall meet at least once a month, with the exception that, critical or time-sensitive work permitting, the commission may recess for either the month of August or December.

B. All meetings shall be open to the public; provided, the commission may hold executive sessions as permitted by law. Commission business shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements, as applicable, of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter [42.30](#) RCW, and the Public Records Act, Chapter [42.56](#) RCW, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended.

C. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by a majority of the members present when a quorum exists.

D. Affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

E. *Remote Participation.*

1. Commission members are encouraged to attend meetings in person when practicable. A member not able to be physically present for a meeting may participate remotely using approved teleconferencing equipment. Remote participation must be approved by the commission in advance of the meeting.

2. The presiding officer must be physically present for a meeting. If the presiding officer is unable to be physically present, the presiding officer must pass the presiding officer role to a commission member who is physically present at the meeting.

3. No more than three members may participate remotely during any one commission meeting. Such remote participation will be considered attendance at the meeting and shall be counted toward determination of a quorum. (Ord. 6662 § 2, 2022; Ord. 6516 § 2, 2020; Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

3.56.040 Council communications.

Formal communications with, or feedback to, the council shall represent the official majority and/or minority opinions of the commission, and not those of individual commission members. Members wishing to express an individual opinion shall provide their comments at the public comment opportunities on the meeting agenda. (Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

3.56.050 Bylaws and procedures.

The commission shall adopt bylaws and procedures not inconsistent with any requirements established in the Bellevue City Code for the conduct of its meetings and hearings, setting of times of hearings, and giving of notice to the public. (Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

3.56.060 Staff support.

The community development department shall provide technical and clerical support for the commission. (Ord. 6420 § 3, 2018; Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

3.56.070 Powers and duties.

The commission shall act in a policy advisory capacity to the city council. The commission may hold public hearings and shall conduct studies, perform analyses, and prepare reports requested by the council. The commission may perform the following functions in order that Bellevue may provide leadership in the arts:

- A. Keep the city council informed and represent the community interest in matters of art;
- B. Serve as the central commission to whom individuals and groups take their concerns and ideas with regard to the arts;
- C. Seek to enlarge the art consciousness of the city and its citizens;
- D. Encourage multi-age working, sharing, learning, teaching, and participation in the arts;
- E. Provide recognition and encouragement to local artists and arts organizations, both those established and those as yet unrecognized;

- F. Develop recommendations for acquiring public artwork consistent with guidelines and priorities approved by city council;
- G. Establish a long-range plan for the development and operation of a cultural center;
- H. Review and make recommendations on the suitability of any work of art intended as a gift to the city;
- I. 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; and
- J. Recommend priorities for funding and allocation of small grants to arts organizations based on eligibility and selection criteria approved by council.

In addition, the commission:

- K. May provide the public with opportunities for involvement in the commission's activities;
- L. May recommend particular concepts for inclusion in the city's vision, subject to approval by council;
- M. May research and provide suggestions on new matters and/or initiatives that council may wish to consider;
- N. Shall provide at least quarterly communications to the council highlighting major activities, future work plans, changes in work plans, and any policy direction requested;
- O. Shall cooperate and coordinate with other council-appointed boards, commissions, committees and task forces as appropriate; and
- P. Shall perform other duties directed by the city council. (Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

3.56.080 Limitations.

The commission shall have no powers or duties related to the following activities:

- A. Advocacy on behalf of the city or the commission without express council permission;
- B. Supervision of staff, administrative operations, maintenance, or hiring of consultants and other independent contractors except for artists, consistent with the guidelines of the Public Art Program; and
- C. Regional issues not specifically assigned to the commission by the city council. (Ord. 6238 § 2, 2015.)

The Bellevue City Code is current through Ordinance 6698, passed November 21, 2022.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Bellevue City Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

[City Website: www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)

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