

Action and Discussion

Tuesday, March 6, 2024

Bellevue Arts Commission

1E-113 or Zoom Meeting

Commission Staff Contact: 425.452.4064

Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update: Recommendation on Arts and Culture Policies

At this meeting, staff is seeking **action** on proposed arts and culture policy amendment language within the Urban Design and the Arts Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Staff request that the Arts Commission discuss and motion to approve their recommendation on draft arts and culture policies.

Code and bylaw support: This item is presented to the Commission as it is supported by City Code 3.56.070 item I: "...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."

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. The subarea plans in Volume 2 are generally not included in the periodic update. However, certain areas within the Wilburton/N.E. 8th St and BelRed subareas will be updated as part of this process, as they will undergo major land use changes to support growth.

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 . . . 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).

At the previous meeting on July 13, 2023, the Arts Commission provided feedback on drafts arts and culture policy amendments within the Urban Design and the Arts Element and were provided information on arts and culture policy topic areas to be covered within the BelRed Subarea Plan.

Council Direction

On February 28, 2022, the City Council directed the Planning Commission to manage the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. They directed the other boards and commissions to contribute to the update by providing 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.

At this meeting, the Commission will review staff recommended updates to the policies. Proposed policy updates are based on Commission feedback, community engagement, recommendations in the Environmental Impact Statement, Economic Impact Analysis, Climate Vulnerability Assessment, and state and regional requirements. The Comprehensive Plan addresses programs, activities and initiatives with citywide impacts, therefore the Periodic Update has been a citywide effort, coordinated across departments.

The Urban Design and the Arts Element contains policies that have implications for policies in other elements and activities carried out by other departments. Similarly, some policies in other elements are related to policies in the Urban Design and the Arts Element and activities carried out by the Cultural and Economic Development Division. Some of the related policies are noted in the summary of the primary changes in the section relating to "*Connections to other Volume 1 Elements*".

Arts Commission Feedback

Staff presented on the scope of policy amendments on November 1, 2022, and received the following feedback:

- Emphasize the BelRed Arts District in the Comprehensive Plan
- Emphasize arts and culture opportunities in Neighborhood Centers
- Consider how recent art space survey factors into policy development
- Consider preservation of affordable space for artists to both work and live
- Capture private interest in arts and arts program, including murals and utility box wraps

Staff presented draft arts and culture policy amendments on July 13, 2023. The Arts Commission asked to staff to consider:

- how these proposed policies support communication and audience development around arts events
- how these proposed policies support for partnerships and programs
- how these proposed policies relate to the economic development around small business support and diversity
- how these proposed policies support development of an artists roster
- how these proposed policies address communication barriers to implementing arts opportunities

During the July 13 meeting, staff confirmed that these considerations fit within the larger strategies set forth by the City's Economic Development Plan (adopted 2020), and that staff would also return with information on policy recommendations related to small business support and diversity in the Economic Development Element.

Policy Development Progress

The city published [proposed amendments to all Volume 1 Elements](#) on January 15, 2024 for public review. This study session highlights draft arts and culture policies from that draft – which are a

subset of a much larger set of policies in the Urban Design and the Arts Element. Attachment A contains the strike/underline of all policy changes being proposed, including the policies not highlighted in this memo. Strikethrough means the text is deleted. Underline means the text is new.

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION for BelRed Arts District Policy Amendments

New policies provide guidance on the BelRed Arts District and support more targeted policies around the BelRed Arts District in the BelRed Subarea Plan.

New Number	Old Number	Proposed Policy	Reason for Change / Notes
UD-28		<u>Catalyze the activation of BelRed Arts District as a unique destination focused on arts, culture, innovation, and nightlife.</u>	Note: Added to support the BelRed Arts District
UD-29		<u>Support the organization and visibility of the BelRed Arts District, increase the number of affordable creative spaces and foster connection and collaboration with the BelRed community in accordance with the BelRed Arts District Implementation Plan.</u>	Note: Added to support the BelRed Arts District

II. Staff Recommendation for Arts and Culture Policy Amendments

Several existing arts and culture policies are proposed to have minor updates to strengthen language around the implementation of arts and culture opportunities. **Updated** policies are more direct and action-oriented in how the City will support arts and cultural opportunities aligned with the long-range planning framework in the 2020 Economic Development Plan. **New** policies are proposed that provide guidance on new and/or emerging arts and culture opportunities. One existing policy in the Landmarks and Historic Resources section around naming parks, streets, and public places was relocated to the Arts and Culture section and updated to incorporate more inclusive language.

New Number	Old Number	Proposed Policy	Reason for Change / Notes
UD-48	UD-5	Support community efforts to develop <u>Cultivate public art that enhances neighborhood character identity, builds community, and engages residents in the artistic process.</u>	Note: Updated to combine (old number) UD17 and UD-48.
	UD-17	Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.	Note: Included in UD-48.
UD-49	UD-28	Encourage private and public developers to integrate art into the design of the public areas of their projects.	

UD-50	UD-13	Support and encourage <u>Cultivate</u> art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding, and respect among the city's diverse population.	Note: Updated to clarify policy intent.
UD-51	UD-14	Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.	
UD-52	UD-15	Support and encourage the development of <u>Provide for</u> a wide array of arts and cultural facilities throughout that serve the city and the Eastside through local and regional strategies.	Note: Updated to clarify policy intent.
UD-53	UD-16	Support and encourage lifelong arts education for all skill levels.	
UD-54	UD-18	Expand the city's public art collection and involve the community in the selection of new major items.	
UD-55	UD-19	Support artists and arts groups working in the community through city programs and private partnerships.	Note: Updated to focus on City role.
UD-56	UD-20	Support and encourage the development of <u>Provide for</u> affordable space for artists and arts groups to practice, create, teach, perform, and present their art.	Note: Updated to use more directive language.
UD-57		<u>Encourage and enhance arts and cultural opportunities within Neighborhood Centers.</u>	Note: Added to include Neighborhood Centers specifically.
UD-58		<u>Use art treatments, such as box wraps, where it can extend the usable life and deter vandalism of city owned equipment and facilities.</u>	Note: Added to support broader arts and cultural program.
UD-59		<u>Develop a process for designating festival streets that can be temporarily closed to vehicular traffic for pedestrian-oriented activities.</u>	Note: Added to support broader arts and cultural program.
UD-60		<u>Support partnerships and spaces for cross-cultural programming that contribute to intercultural engagement, learning, and exchange.</u>	Note: Added to support broader arts and cultural program.

UD-61	UD-83	Recognize the heritage of and affirm diverse heritages within the community by naming (or renaming) parks, streets and other public places after major figures through interpretative materials, artistic expression, and events placemaking.	Note: Updated to use more inclusive language.
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III. Staff Recommendation for Landmarks and Historic Resources Policy Amendments

New policies support landmarks and historic resources that have significant cultural value to the City, as well as coordination with diverse groups in identifying and protecting these resources.

New Number	Old Number	Proposed Policy	Reason for Change / Notes
UD-62		<u>Consider establishing a local preservation program to increase historic resources protections.</u>	Note: Added to support consideration of a future historic preservation program. DEIS mitigation measure (Appendix D, 5.1).
	UD-82	Preserve, enhance and interpret Bellevue's historical identity.	Note: Removed because the policy is too broad.
UD-63	UD-84	Designate historic landmark sites and structures and review proposed changes to ensure that these sites and structures will continue to be a part of the community and explore incentives for rehabilitation. <u>Explore opportunities for preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of historically significant sites and structures.</u>	Note: Updated to broaden focus of policy to include all historically significant sites.
UD-64		<u>Identify and protect historic and cultural sites and structures that may be acutely sensitive to climate hazards.</u>	Note: DEIS mitigation measure (Appendix D, 5.1). Recommendation in Climate Vulnerability Assessment (5.1.2).
UD-65		<u>Establish a process of conducting historic surveys that identify, document, and evaluate historic properties.</u>	Note: Added to support consideration of a future historic preservation program.
UD-66		<u>Coordinate with affected tribes and agencies regarding planning and development activities that may impact significant natural, cultural, or archaeological resources.</u>	Note: Added to support consideration of a future historic preservation program.

UD-67		<u>Work with tribes and other historically marginalized or underserved communities to raise awareness of and protect historically and culturally valuable resources to these communities.</u>	Note: Added to support consideration of a future historic preservation program.
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IV. Connections To Other Volume 1 Elements

Proposed arts and culture policy amendments are complementary with the proposed policies found in other Elements that the Arts Commission requested staff to consider at the July 13 meeting. These include:

- **ED-12.** Provide city leadership and direction to maximize the business retention and recruitment efforts in partnership with Bellevue's economic development partners
- **ED-15.** Inventory, evaluate, inventory, and strengthen capacity-building programs to support Bellevue based cultural organizations and artists.
- **ED-33.** Support continuing education via educational opportunities, apprenticeships, internships, certifications, and other methods of upskilling and reskilling.
- **ED-39.** Promote and nurture entrepreneurial development in Bellevue by retaining and creating areas where small or emerging businesses can develop and flourish
- **ED-46.** Support new businesses and businesses at risk of displacement in finding and securing alternative space within the city.

Discussion

Staff will review the draft arts and culture policies with the Arts Commission and will seek their recommendation on these policies. The Arts Commission is asked to take action to recommend the updates to the policies in the Urban Design element to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will review the recommendation and the element in the context of the entire plan and make a recommendation to City Council regarding the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update following a public hearing.

Next Steps

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

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed Policy Amendments to the Urban Design and The Arts Element

Staff Contact

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