

DATE: September 6, 2016

TO: City Council

FROM: Philip Malkin, Vice Chair, Bellevue Arts Commission
Trudi Jackson, Member of the Bellevue Arts Commission

SUBJECT: Arts Commission Report and Changes to the Grant Guidelines

This is a periodic update from the Bellevue Arts Commission. Tonight we will be focusing on the following topics:

Bellwether in the news!

Both the Bellevue Arts Museum and the Bellwether Exhibition and Art Walk were included in an online roundup for *U.S. News and World Report* titled "10 Underrated Cities for Art Lovers." Bellwether is a biennial sculpture with 32 artworks temporarily installed at City Hall, the Pedestrian Corridor and Downtown Park. Bellevue is featured in the article as a booming arts city. For reference, *U.S. News & World Report* garners 9,451,907 monthly viewers. A clip is attached for reference (Attachment 1).

Website link: <http://travel.usnews.com/features/10-underrated-cities-for-art-lovers/>

Grant Program Report

The Eastside Arts Partnerships (EAP) and Special Projects funding programs serve to bring greater benefit to Bellevue residents by supporting the work of artists and arts groups in two different ways. Eastside Arts Partnerships supports the operations of proven arts, cultural and heritage *programs* that deliver high quality programs and services and significant public benefit to Bellevue residents year after year. Special Projects encourages onetime arts, cultural and heritage *projects* that fill in service gaps, particularly for under-served groups in Bellevue. A 2015 grant report is attached for reference (Attachment 2).

Changes to the Grant Guidelines

At Council's direction, guidelines for these two arts funding programs are presented to Council annually for feedback and approval. In an effort to better align the funding program to the City's Budget One performance measures, the Arts Commission recommends changes to the criteria and as well as changes to the application form to streamline the application and review process and reduce barriers for cultural groups seeking grant support. The Arts Commission requests Council feedback on the 2017 Guidelines for Eastside Arts Partnerships and Special Projects funding programs. The draft guidelines are attached for reference (Attachment 3 and 4).