

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Diversity and Inclusion at Bellevue Botanical Garden

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Parks & Community Services

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

Overview of the Bellevue Botanical Garden's response to the Council's directive to serve our community broadly and inclusively as described in the Diversity Advantage Plan adopted in 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

At the May 13 Study Session, Parks & Community Services will present an overview of the Bellevue Botanical Garden's response to Council's directive to serve our community broadly and inclusively as described in the Diversity Advantage Plan adopted in 2014. Garden staff and volunteer partners embrace Council's vision statement that our diversity is our strength and, with help from the Diversity Advantage Team, have made great progress toward promoting, understanding, and practicing equity, inclusion, opportunity, and cultural competency.

Bellevue Botanical Garden is enjoyed by a broad range of visitors from different ethnic backgrounds, ages, and abilities. We are making efforts to engage more deeply with a broad spectrum of visitors and intend that eventually, through this work, our volunteers, members, staff, and leadership will better reflect this diversity.

This year we are working with members of the Chinese community to develop programming meaningful to them that would also be tied to our botanical mission and be of interest to all visitors. In 2019 and 2020, we will be hosting Chinese Tea Arts Through the Seasons with tea demonstrations and exhibits about the different plants used in Chinese tea arts at different times of year. Our first event will be held on May 18 in conjunction with National Public Gardens Week which runs from May 13 to 19.

National Public Gardens Week is an initiative of the American Public Gardens Association to bring national exposure to the importance of building vibrant, relevant gardens committed to community enrichment and environmental responsibility through community engagement and sustainable practices. Throughout the week, public gardens across the nation will be highlighted for their importance and impact as community resources and the public will be encouraged to visit, engage, donate, and volunteer.

We invite you to visit the Bellevue Botanical Garden during National Public Gardens Week.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue Botanical Garden incorporates the guiding principles of the City of Bellevue's Diversity Advantage Plan to enrich the quality of life for all through access, equity, inclusion, opportunity, and cultural competence.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this additional initiative.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

A. National Public Gardens Week Schedule

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A