

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

January 8, 2019
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Manfredi, Commissioners Gulati, Jackson, Lau Hui, Lewis, Malkin, Wolfteich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Joshua Heim, Scott MacDonald, Nanette Stamm, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chairperson Manfredi who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Lewis, who arrived at 4:32 p.m., and Commissioner Wolfteich, who arrived at 4:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Lau Hui and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Lau Hui. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Malkin and the motion carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2018 Accomplishments

Arts Program Manager Joshua Heim said the Commission ushered the grants program into the modern age during 2018 by developing an online review process and successfully experimenting with technical assistance. Six of the seven languages in which technical assistance could be provided were utilized. Overall there was a 63 percent increase in the number of Eastside Arts Partnerships applications.

On the planning side of things, the Creative Edge strategy was completed through the work of a 20-member task force of local and regional representatives from a number of focus areas.

Additionally, the Community, Culture and Arts Resource Map was published, an online tool developed in partnership with the Diversity Program.

Mr. Heim noted that the last of the five arts installations in Meydenbauer Bay Park is set to be installed within the week. The park itself will hopefully be opened to the public by the end of January, and a grand opening is planned for the spring. Bellwether was also brought to new heights during 2018, and the community exhibition program was piloted with artworks displayed at City Hall, including *Dragons Are Our Friends* and *Project 42*.

Commissioner Lewis commented that Bellwether was just fantastic and a great success. It drew in a number of new people.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Malkin, Mr. Heim noted that the Power Up program was launched in 2017, with the grants being launched in 2018. The program has proved to be successful.

Arts Program Coordinator Scott MacDonald pointed out that *Night Blooming* was installed at the Botanical Garden during the year.

Chair Manfredi thanked staff for including a review of the year as a way of being reminded of all the work that was accomplished.

Mr. Heim informed the Commissioners that the job of Chief Economic Development Officer has been advertised. He explained that the art program will fall under that person's jurisdiction.

B. 2019 Work Plan

Mr. Heim allowed that the work program list is quite long. The 2019 goals are to 1) Develop the capacity of the Arts Program to the level necessary to achieve the desired community impact; 2) Embed cultural competence and equity as key elements within the Arts Program; and 3) Raise the profile of the Arts Program and Arts Commission in Community Development through strategic initiatives. The goals will involve advocating for more resources and more staff; working toward a bona fide Cultural Compass update and making sure cultural competence is make a key element of the Arts Program; and working in the community to make the Arts Program and the Commission better known and recognized through strategic initiatives.

The first of the strategic initiatives is the update of the Cultural Compass. The project will be conducted both with interns and consultants, though the budget figures are still being worked out. The Commission actually initiated the update to Part 1 of the Cultural Compass in 2016, and an orderly update for each of the nine parts will be rolled out in line with the available budget. Part of the work will involve comparing the recently completed Grand Connection Arts and Cultural Plan and the Creative Edge Strategy to the Cultural Compass to determine the degree to which they can be utilized in updating the individual parts of the Cultural Compass. The Creative Edge Strategy has not yet been approved by the Council and as such is not part of the Economic Development Strategy.

Commissioner Malkin said it was his recollection that the Creative Edge Strategy is focused on the commercial side of the creative business. He said he was not sure it represented a key role for the Commission to play given the Commission's focus on supporting and advocating for the non-profits. Mr. Heim said the issue came up during the task force conversations. He noted that there are three main outcomes for the Creative Edge. The placemaking outcome includes goals around public art and cultural district planning at the neighborhood level. The

creative entrepreneurship outcome clearly is focused on the for-profit business community, while the ecosystem outcome relates to individual artists on the non-profit side. In creating the map, both businesses and cultural resources were mapped. Moving forward in addressing the Cultural Compass will trigger the need to think through the city's cultural resources and what it means for the city to be taking care of them. The largest chunk of the city's cultural resources are admittedly on the commercial side.

Commissioner Malkin said what he has always wanted to see explored is how to bring some of the financial engine into the non-profits to reduce their need to continually seek handouts. The Power Up grants work to that end to some degree in that they focus on capacity building for non-profits. Mr. Heim said that fits into Part II, Cultural organizations and Artists, and can certainly be further discussed as part of the update.

Mr. Heim said the second strategic initiative has to do with the Bel-Red look back. The work will include evaluating the arts and cultural element within the Bellevue neighborhood subarea plan.

Public Art Intern Manette Stamm said she has been working to compile assessment material, including information on the zoning and the ways in which it does or does not support the arts and arts-related uses. She said her work involves analyzing and discussing the future of Bel-Red given the coming of the light rail system and the challenges the area will face. Particular attention will be paid to underscoring ways the city can play a supportive role. Later in the month a series of charrettes will be launched to gain feedback from people from the area relative to what they will need as artists or businesses supporting artists; a possible boundary for the arts district; and how the city might support the boundary with things like an overlay district allowing for more galleries and art spaces the current zoning does not allow.

Ms. Stamm said she would be reporting back to the Commission at future meetings and would release a recommendations report in May or June that will be sent to the City Council. In many ways it can be assumed the notion of an arts district was thrown upon the Bel-Red area and not much has been done at the city level to support it. The best approach will be to show the city how the district can be supported at the community level rather than from the top down. She added that she is doing background research on arts districts around the country and is hoping to put out a survey aimed at identifying themes that are found in different arts districts that might be a good fit for Bel-Red.

Commissioner Malkin said it was his understanding that there is already an arts district plan in place for Bel-Red. Mr. MacDonald said in 2009, ahead of planning for light rail, the city looked at Bel-Red and rezoned the 900-acre area. The intent was in part to drive the conversation with Sound Transit. Much attention was given to planning the station areas by way of zoning and visioning. The Bel-Red look back is intended to review the subarea plan policies and the Land Use Code. The work will feed into four major categories: arts and culture, transportation, environment and zoning. The study will include looking at the fact that no one is using the incentive system that is in place, choosing instead to use the less expensive fee in-lieu option. The hope is that tweaks will be made to make it less expensive to build the amenity than to pay the fee in-lieu. The look back will be a very complicated project.

Commissioner Gulati asked if the Bel-Red code is set up to be purely commercial or if it has residential mixed in. Ms. Stamm said the Bel-Red is one of the most complicated areas of the city from a zoning standpoint. It has some 12 different zones ranging from medical office to various residential densities. For the most part, the commercial/residential nodes are around the light rail station areas.

Commissioner Gulati pointed out that the new development in the 130th area is all commercial. Mr. MacDonald said the plan for that area calls for a mix of 80 percent residential and 20 percent commercial/office. There are also requirements for retail uses on the ground floor of the commercial uses along 130th. The Spring District is planned for the inverse with a greater proportion of commercial/office, but to date more residential has been built than office.

Chair Manfredi said he was heartened to see the Bel-Red area studied after years of talking about it. He asked if strong communications have been established with Bel-Red folks. Ms. Stamm said that has not happened yet. There have been talks with a few key stakeholders but the work to form additional stakeholder lists is ongoing. It is unfortunate that many arts groups have left the area.

Mr. Heim said the CIP Cultural Arts Fund strategic initiative is a new fund that has one million dollars over a five-year period. It is intended to address requests received from three arts organizations: KidsQuest, Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Bellevue Arts Museum. The request of Pacific Northwest Ballet has been met and they have been awarded \$500,000 by the Council, while the other two are still working their way through the process. He added that if for some reason either or both of the remaining requests are not granted, the funds will still exist. The Council values the level of professionalism and rigor the Commission brings to the operating grants and wants the Commission involved in reviewing requests like the three that have been received. Some meetings with the City Council to address the issue have tentatively been added to the agenda. One thing the Council will be looking at is whether or not a new funding program for the funds should be established.

Commissioner Malkin asked if the fund will be replenished once the funds have all been allocated. Mr. Heim said it was set up originally as a fixed sum in the amount of one million dollars to be expended over five years. He said he would have to look into whether or not the fund was included in a long-term budget projection, which would mean the fund would be replenished.

Commissioner Jackson said she has been concerned for some time with the fact that there is a process in place for contemplating small grants, while large grants are dealt with by the Council without the same process and on a much more political footing.

Chair Manfredi pointed out that structurally speaking an organization seeking a large amount of money cannot put in a request to the Commission because the Commission does not have that much money. Accordingly, large requests are handled in a different manner. Commissioner Jackson agreed but said even so the Commission should serve as the conduit to the Council by having requests run through the Commission and forwarded on to the Council.

With regard to the equity, diversity and inclusion strategic initiative, Mr. Heim said a lot of work has been done internally within the Department of Community Development to apply the vision that was adopted by the Council in 2015. The work culminated in the spring of 2018 with the department's Diversity Strategic Plan. That plan includes some specific tasks for the arts team to address. There are a few ways to contemplate how the Council's vision applies to the ways in which the Commission makes recommendations, including increasing support for artists whose work addresses intercultural themes; supporting and producing special events, art exhibits and performances, educational materials, festivals and public information that increase opportunities for cultural interaction and education; and developing and implementing a strategy to increase diverse representation on City boards, commissions, advisory committees and task forces.

Mr. Heim noted that the Allocations Committee in doing its work late in 2018 recommended thinking carefully about equity as it relates to the grants program. There are new funding levels established and that offers one way to incorporate smaller groups into the larger funding pool. What surfaced was a question of value in terms of if the mission is to support the big organization or to help the smaller groups become big. The inclusion side is more focused on the exhibitions being done at City Hall, while the equity piece is centered on prioritizing grants.

C. Topics of Interest & Dinner

Mr. Heim reminded the Commissioners that the arts fair weekend has been comprised of three different fairs. One of the three, the Bellevue Festival of the Arts, has decided to fold its tent. The Bellevue 6th Street Fair, which is produced by the Bellevue Downtown Association, will either in 2019 or 2020 run into some trouble as their current venue will be redeveloped, making it necessary to find a new home. Neither the arts program or the Commission has any formal relationship with the arts fairs, but the issues the fairs are facing are of interest to the arts community.

Mr. Heim asked the Commissioners to enjoy dinner and to talk about issues they are aware of by way of their various roles in the arts community and neighborhoods.

****Break for Dinner****

Commissioner Gulati highlighted the need to preserve Bellevue's arts and culture as the city rapidly transforms. The current strong economic growth and development is evidence of the vibrancy of the area. Bellevue residents are some of the most highly educated in the state and they have high levels of wealth while being increasingly diverse in terms of culture and ethnicity. The list of challenges include the loss of numerous small businesses; the risk of the city becoming too one-dimensional as a technology hub; arts and culture becoming secondary or even fading away; losing the city's cultural heritage and identity; and getting subsumed by growth.

Continuing, Commissioner Gulati said the cancelation of the Bellevue Festival of the Arts is a case in point. For 34 years the festival has been held in the parking lot near the intersection of Bellevue Way and NE 8th Street. It has been forced to close up only because of the new construction of the site that may begin as early as March. The 170 or so artists from the region and beyond who have been coming to the festival for many years will lose a means of showcasing their work in what was deemed to be a premier arts extravaganza that saw 300,000 attendees. The key question is whether or not the city has even considered the loss. If so, why have there been no alternative plans proposed; why was the developer not asked to ensure another space allocation while the site is under construction; and does the architectural design of the new building include space allocated to accommodate the return of the festival after construction is completed.

Every effort needs to be put into continuing to make Bellevue a showcase and true melting pot of the arts from around the country and the world. Apart from the festivals, the city should seek to allocate year-round space for artists displays, as well as outdoor spaces for performing arts and culture activities at a minimal or no cost to the artist or organization. One possible solution would be to seek support from builders, corporate entities and local businesses to help boost the arts in the area. That could take the form of hosting artists at home stores or in allocated hallways and spaces in hospitals, hotels and corporate offices, and encouraging the performing arts within the corporations. The key to a successful arts event is directly related to foot traffic and advertising. Because of the city's laws and regulations, advertising and marketing events can be a challenge.

Commissioner Gulati suggested taking advantage of the exploding tech industry. Large corporations seek to serve the needs of the communities and fulfill their responsibility to the public as corporate citizens. A structured program needs to be developed so that giving will become easier and track in one direction. The financial and technological help, futuristic means for getting through to the people can be designed. One example would be interactive kiosks that could be strategically placed and corporately sponsored. They could be updated monthly to showcase the latest. Over time, art from the surrounding arts could be connected with and incorporated all into one.

Chair Manfredi commented that the kiosk was a great idea. Commissioner Gulati shared with him some photographs of kiosks and suggested they could be placed in hotel lobbies, in malls and in other locations where there is a lot of foot traffic. The city likely would not provide money for the kiosks, thus corporate sponsorship would be needed.

Commissioner Lewis said she came away from the conversation with Planning and Community Development Director Mac Cummins that Bellevue lacks the soul, primarily in the downtown, that would encourage people to stay in the city for arts and culture instead of going to Seattle. What Bellevue needs is a third place with mixed use for both social and commercial, a public place but with a human scale along the lines of the Barnes and Noble building. Ron Sher, the developer of the Crossroads Mall, also developed the mall at Lake Forest Park and is working on one in an old Penny's store in Bremerton. Something like that should be developed in the downtown. Kemper Freeman's idea of building The Lodge is close but is not quite the third place that is needed in the downtown.

Commissioner Lewis said also needed are venues and spaces for the arts. The Tateuchi Center does not appear to be happening. Another idea is to have a winter art fair next to the ice skating rink in Downtown Park utilizing heated tents.

Chair Manfredi said the third place idea is a terrific idea. The question is where it should be located. Commissioner Lau Hui suggested it could be sited as a transitional use in available spaces. Commissioner Lewis agreed but pointed out that if the intention is to build a place for people to get used to coming to, if it were to move it might defeat the purpose. Commissioner Gulati agreed and said that is in fact the reason the Bellevue Arts Fair needs a dedicated space.

Commissioner Lau Hui commented that finding a location for a third place would be challenging and reiterated that operating it as a pop-up in vacant spaces could help to build momentum for identifying a permanent location. Commissioner Lewis agreed and stressed that it should be in the downtown core.

Commissioner Malkin said he had been thinking about programs behind which more energy should be put, starting with the city's art collection which should be built out further. More importantly, alternative ways of exhibiting the works beyond City Hall should be sought. The community largely does not come to City Hall but they do go to the community centers and libraries. One option would be to partner with the Bellevue Arts Museum for an exhibition space. He said during a recent visit to the museum he spoke with an employee who commented that Bellwether was too short and not big enough. Partnering with Meydenbauer Center should also be explored, and the Commission should drive it.

Commissioner Malkin said he would like to see more energy put behind Arts Space. More should be known about its current status and how to move it forward. If the Commission has some funds to play with, they should be put into the Arts Space conversation to help solve the facilities question. It could even be tied to the Grand Connection by having it be an anchor.

With regard to the educational program STEAM, Commissioner Malkin said he recently found an interesting website that highlighted the benefits of the program. He said he personally had very little contact with the Bellevue School District and as such could not say if some of those things are already going on. At any rate, how to make it an issue for the school district is a conversation that needs to be had between the district and the Commission. He said one topic on the website he found is the notion that creativity is the foundation of innovative thinking given that creation and ingenuity can only support the other fields of study. Cultivating an awareness of arts and culture in the community will start with the educational system.

Commissioner Malkin noted that the Commission had previously discussed, but not moved forward with, the Councilmember buddy system. He suggested the Commissioners need to be more present for each Councilmember so that funding and support can be achieved. The Commissioners need to serve activity as lobbyists to Councilmembers, the results of which can be seen when other arts organizations directly seek funding from the Council. Councilmembers should be brought up to date at least once a month with the latest Commission initiatives, which is something individual Commissioners could do through the buddy system. The Councilmembers should be fully aware of the challenges faced by the Commission, such as finding facilities and rehearsal space.

Commissioner Malkin added that the Arts Commission is the most underappreciated city body given that no one really knows what the Commission does. Mr. Heim said he would not go so far as to say the Commission is underappreciated but agreed that the Commission is not well known.

Chair Manfredi said he recalled that when the Councilmember buddy system was previously discussed, steps were taken to specifically pair up Councilmembers and Commissioners. Mr. Heim said following that the feedback he received was to stick with the official process of working through the Council liaison to the Commission, which is Councilmember Stokes.

Chair Manfredi said he has found Councilmember Stokes to be very supportive of the work of the Commission. The problem is that he is not the full Council.

Chair Manfredi said during the meeting with Mr. Cummins he heard it said that there is a limit to what the city can and should do in supporting the arts, and that the arts should be its own thing. He said in response to that comment he had given consideration to specific programs the city could do. Generally, and maybe improbably, the city could rent or provide a large art space for artists to use. Another idea would be to make an appeal to music teachers to provide their very best students to come together and perform. Each group's performance could be ten to fifteen minutes long, with the collection of groups performing at Meydenbauer Center on a regular basis, with all performances open to the public at a minimal ticket rate. The city's contribution would be to pay the fees due to Meydenbauer Center. All of the proceeds would go back to the students and to cover any ancillary costs. Something like that would connect what is happening every day in Bellevue in terms of arts education with the music-loving population.

Commissioner Lewis asked if something similar is already happening in Bellevue. Commissioner Jackson said the Performing Arts Festival of the Eastside occurs annually. It is a competitive and adjudicated event and the top winners do a public concert at the end. That event, though publicized, remains mostly unknown even to music students.

Commissioner Malkin said the question is whether anyone from the music-loving population would attend a concert done by kids, unless they are in fact parents of those kids. Chair Manfredi allowed that under the worst case scenario it would be just the parents and friends of

the kids attending the performances. However, Meydenbauer Center seats 400 and it likely would be close to being filled up with just those. On the other hand, offering the event with consistency frequency and doing a certain amount of advertising could bring the public to a realization that the performances are in fact high quality and worth attending.

Commissioner Jackson said she remembered hearing about a city where there is studio space funded by the community that artists can use for little rent. The space includes facilities needed for making art. That is something the city could do to create a space for incubating artists, something the city already does for helping to incubate companies.

Commissioner Lau Hui said she would like to see identified ways to support the mom and pop arts groups in the city with some sort of a structural framework, both by providing facilities and by providing zoning incentives. The structural framework could involve artist spaces, kiosks and an outreach program aimed at enabling the small groups and individual artists to better communicate with each other and grow stronger together. It could also take the form of better maps or websites and bulletin boards. The city should be actively involved. Strong zoning incentives could encourage developers to engage with the local arts communities. It could be something like offering a certain number of points for providing public art, but three times as many points for using a Bellevue or Eastside artist to create the public art.

Commissioner Lewis said she did not know if the Commission could make that happen but would like to see the attempt made.

Commissioner Gulati said she was sure the city reviews and approves all new construction and suggested it should be possible for new development to include some allocated space for the arts.

Chair Manfredi pointed out that where too many requirements are placed on them, the developers may choose not to do projects in Bellevue. Commissioner Lau Hui stressed that incentives always work better than mandating requirements. Where the incentives are sweet enough, they will be used. Chair Manfredi noted that there are a number of incentives already in place, with priority given to things like broad community benefit and affordable housing. The incentives for arts and culture are too low on the list. Mr. Heim pointed out that the time to revisit the incentive issue for Bel-Red will be during the look back study.

Ms. Stamm said she is currently engaged in reviewing and analyzing the policies. She said her analysis will be clear about why certain policies have failed due to the incentive system used to support the policies not achieving their goals. She said she also would be included a recommendation for how to change the policies to improve their chances of success.

Mr. MacDonald said the Commission will be better positioned to meet with success by talking with the Planning Commission what things that need to be changed. Developers have people speak at every Planning Commission meeting where code issues are being considered and they hammer the same points every time. Having a Commissioner speaking on behalf of the arts could also help to sway the Planning Commission's thinking.

Commissioner Wolfteich agreed that what makes people decide to travel to Seattle for arts and culture is the lack of a soul in downtown Bellevue. He said when looking to the future, the questions to be asked are what is the long-term trajectory of arts and culture in Bellevue; is Bellevue satisfied with being an arts and culture hub; or would it rather be a true cultural destination for the Northwest. If the answer to that question is yes, then it must be asked what will need to be done to escalate the long-term growth curve. The single lynchpin is the Tateuchi Center because it is what will make Bellevue a destination for arts and culture. A number of years ago there were a series of meetings about the Tateuchi Center in which the

Arts Commission was involved. A Commissioner spoke at each of the meetings, after which things just came to a halt. The Commission should step up and become more directly involved in working to make the Tateuchi Center happen.

Commissioner Wolfeich said there is a coffee shop he frequents in Seattle where works by different artists are on display and are for sale. A new emerging artist has works displayed every month. The same happens at several cafés in Seattle. While a simple thing, the grassroots approach can have a big impact on emerging artists. Something similar should be launched in Bellevue.

Commissioner Jackson pointed out that the current plan for the Tateuchi Center includes having a display space to highlight community works. She added that a couple of weeks ago she traveled to Seattle to go to a coffee house specifically to see works on display by an artist. There are corporations in the world that choose to buy art and display it. The Welcombe Center in the United Kingdom has some outstanding art the public can see. The Symetra building in the downtown has an extensive area downstairs that is not utilized, and throughout the downtown there is a lot of ground floor spaces that are not activated.

Commissioner Lewis suggested the Commission should do a survey to determine what spaces are not being used. Commissioner Gulati agreed and said she spoke earlier to Mr. Heim about the notion of tapping into cafés and restaurants. Seattle is more open to new and emerging artists. The cafés and restaurants on the Eastside are for the most part extremely snobbish about who they want, though there are some that display works by local artists.

Commissioner Lau Hui said she could see how displaying artwork in cafés and restaurants could trigger liability and maintenance issues. Commissioner Gulati said most business owners would require the artists to sign a document indicating the business is not responsible for breakage or loss. Restaurants in the Bay area is very open to the practice, though they also hold final say in whose works get displayed.

Commissioner Malkin asked what role the Commission should play in getting art works displayed in local businesses. Commissioner Lau Hui said holding an educational workshop would be one step. Commissioner Gulati said she does art festivals every year and regularly come across artists who are struggling, regardless of how good their work is. Their biggest problem is the expenses related to showcasing their work. She said where she has to pay \$800 to exhibit at an art festival, and then does not see enough foot traffic and therefore does not get enough sales, it is difficult to make ends meet.

Commissioner Malkin said that is why he was proposing the Commission seek to acquire more art on behalf of the city and then work to have them it displayed at various places around town, including the community centers, the library, the Bellevue Arts Museum and at Meydenbauer Center. On another tier the Commission should partner with businesses and restaurants to showcase the collection. Commissioner Gulati informed the Commissioners that West Elm on Main Street at Bellevue Way has works by a new artist on display, rotating monthly. They take a maximum of five pieces and if the works sell, they call the artist. No commission is charged by the business. Other businesses should be encouraged to follow that example. Commissioner Malkin said the role of the Commission should be to help make the connection between the businesses and the artists, and to set an example by expanding the city's collection.

Commissioner Gulati said the closure of the Bellevue Festival of the Arts is really all about the people who have taken over the property. They have space for 40 artists, but that is not enough given the average of 170. The loss will be huge for the city.

Commissioner Lau Hui asked if the city could simply close off a street to host the art festival. Mr. Heim said that would require the organization producing the festival to apply for the street closure. Commissioner Gulati said the organization sought other venues and found none, and that is why they made the decision to close down the event.

Commissioner Malkin pointed out that parking lots like the one in front of DOXA are rare in downtown Bellevue and in fact are rapidly disappearing altogether in favor of underground parking. He asked if Downtown Park could be leveraged as a space for a large arts festival. Mr. Heim said that outcome is possible, though he pointed out that there is a process involved. He said he could research what it would take. Commissioner Malkin suggested that any expenses involved could be put into the Commission's operating budget.

D. Committee and Project Lead Assignments

Mr. Heim said the only standing committee the Commission has currently is the Allocations Committee. Commissioners are assigned on an ad hoc basis as project leads for projects for which they have an interest.

Chair Manfredi and Commissioners Gulati and Malkin agreed to serve on the Allocations Committee.

Mr. Heim said he would seek to have a committee meet in the spring to have a conversation about the allocations guidelines as they relate to equity. Commissioner Lau Hui agreed to serve on that committee.

Commissioner Lewis suggested there should be a committee formed to consider the art fairs and what if anything the Commission can do. She added that she particularly liked the idea of locating the arts festival in Downtown Park.

Chair Manfredi asked if all that is needed is for someone to approach the Chair of the Parks and Community Services Board. Ms. Stamm said it could go beyond that simple step. Parks loves the parks and is very protective of them. Anytime events can happen in a park that keeps everything on the concrete, there is little opposition but also very little space to use.

Mr. Heim suggested that because the Bellevue Downtown Association is involved in the arts festival, it would be beneficial for a representative be asked to attend a Commission meeting to talk details. They also serve as a nexus between the arts and business. He said he would reach out to the president, Patrick Bannon.

Commissioner Malkin pointed out that Seattle closes the street frequently to accommodate the Fremont fair. Ms. Stamm commented that 106th Avenue NE was designed to be a festival street. That is why it has a raised crosswalk. Compass Plaza on the site where DOXA is will be a cohesive open space after the site is redeveloped. It is public space and the plan for the area as the surrounding properties redevelop is to create a premier public gathering space.

Commissioner Gulati asked how difficult it would be for the Bellevue Arts Museum to increase its fair sites and have other artists apply there. Commissioner Jackson said it is cost prohibitive for all artists except those who sell to Bellevue's rich and Medina's famous residents. Artists must either be very popular or offer high-cost items in order to make ends meet. Additionally, the Bellevue Arts Museum fair is juried.

Chair Manfredi asked if the Commissioners were ready to prioritize the initiatives. Commissioner Jackson said she was not ready. She said they are all good things to keep in mind and many of them could see their focus change once there is more information in hand.

Clearly the Commission needs to get out into the community and do some networking. Chair Manfredi agreed with regard to networking and said he was especially interested in having the Commission involved in the Bel-Red look back, the notion of connecting with Councilmembers, and showing up for Planning Commission meetings. Those networking activities may prove to have the most impact for the Commission.

Commissioner Malkin said he was particularly interested in knowing where things are going with ArtSpace. ArtSpace could resolve some of the issues in terms of exhibition space and performance/rehearsal space. It could also tie into the Bel-Red look back.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS – None
6. REPORTS
 - a. Commissioners’ Committee and Lead Reports – None
 - B. Project Updates from Staff – None
7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION
 - A. Written Correspondence – None
 - B. Information – None
8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Manfredi adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.