

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

June 11, 2019
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Joshua Heim, Community Development Department

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chairperson Manfredi who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Lau Hui, who arrived at 4:40 p.m., and Commissioner Wolfteich, who arrived at 4:46 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

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

B. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Malkin noted that he had not attended the meeting but was listed in the minutes as being present.

Motion to approve the May 7, 2019, minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded was by Commissioner Lewis and the motion carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

There was agreement to take up item B first.

B. Grant Guidelines

Arts Program Manager Joshua Heim noted that the proposed grant guidelines were unchanged from the previous year. Even so, the guidelines must be approved by the City Council. Three programs are affected by the guidelines: the Eastside Arts Partnerships, special projects, and Power Up. He noted that for the Eastside Arts Partnerships, letters of intent are due by October 3 and the application deadline is October 9. The applications will all be submitted

online and the consultant will facilitate the technical assistance element. The guidelines will be published by August 1, giving everyone a month to read them before the online application opens on September 3. The Allocations Committee will meet in mid-October and will have three or four weeks to review the applications. Funding recommendations will be made at a meeting in mid-November and presented to the Commission for approval at December meeting before being submitted to the Council for approval.

Answering a question asked by Chair Manfredi, Mr. Heim reminded him that there are two funding levels. Community Partners applications are much simpler with fewer required attachments. The maximum funding amount is \$5000, though the request cannot exceed 50 percent of the total annual budget. Under the Pro Partners program, applications can be made for up to \$10,000 by organizations with annual budgets at or above \$200,000. Applicants in both categories can also apply under Power Up.

Mr. Heim noted that the application timeline for the special projects category was the same. The renewal process for projects funded in the current round will continue in place so that all that needs to be done is to submit a letter where additional funding is needed for a second year of a project. Those submitting applications for special projects funding do not need to be an incorporated non-profit organization, something that is required for Eastside Arts Partnerships applicants. The special projects category allows for supporting individual artists.

Chair Manfredi commented that an artist he knows who has been involved with the city for some time could not find any information about the arts program and believed that the program had been canceled. He said he was not sure how that idea got out, but the notion is percolating in the arts community. Whatever is being done to get the word out about the arts program should be ramped up a bit.

Commissioner Gulati stated that 4Culture has every few months a series of applications for groups of artists or individual artists and for different kinds of art. She suggested the city could in a small way incorporate the same approach, allowing for single artists to apply for funding for different arts ideas at different times of the year.

Chair Manfredi pointed out that the special projects category encourages innovative projects by artists and communities that fill in cultural gaps and inspire new forms of creative participation, particularly for underserved groups. Commissioner Malkin suggested the language of the guidelines could be modified to make it less oriented and more oriented to individual artists.

Commissioner Malkin said he liked the idea of encouraging individual artists, which could translate into Bellevue as a place artists want to live and work.

Commissioner Gulati added that the notion fits well with the idea of developing an arts district and having various places in which to display and showcase artwork.

Commissioner Malkin stated that under the current approach, the city funds grant applications only once each year. He allowed that absent deep pockets to fund multiple grants throughout the year, success with individual artists through the special projects programs could lead to encouraging Council to increase funding to allow for allocating grants least twice each year.

Chair Manfredi pointed out the need to consider the difficulty of scheduling an allocation process more than once a year. He agreed allocating funds more than once a year would benefit the constituents, but it could be a challenge for the Commission. Mr. Heim said one option would be to have two Allocations Committee instead of just one.

Chair Manfredi said the special projects category is somewhat of a catchall for any new people coming into the program. The language as set forth clearly highlights that. He agreed to the addition of the word “individual” in referring to projects by artists.

There was consensus to revise the paragraph to read “We encourage innovative projects by individuals, artists and communities that fill in cultural gaps and inspire new forms of creative participation, particularly for underserved groups.”

A motion to approve the guidelines as amended was made by Commissioner Gulati. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wolfeich and the motion carried unanimously.

A. Arts Commission Officer Elections

Mr. Heim reminded the Commissioners that under the Commission’s bylaws the election of officers to serve as Chair and Vice Chair is to occur annually in the month of June. He provided the Commissioners with a handout containing the names of all the Commissioners and Chair Manfredi directed them to mark down their nomination for who should serve as Chair for the coming year.

Chair Manfredi tallied the nominations and noted that he had been nominated five times and that Commissioner Malkin had been nominated once. The Commissioners then voted on the two nominations and Chair Manfredi was elected to serve another year as Chair.

The same process was utilized for nominating a Vice Chair and Commissioners Malkin, Lewis and Lau Hui received nominations. Commissioner Lewis respectfully withdrew her name from consideration. The Commissioners then voted on the two nominations and Commissioner Malkin was elected to serve another year as Vice Chair.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS

Mr. Heim reported that he had received an email from the teacher of the Interlake High School student who won the Bellevue School District art competition. The email asked about the option of sending the work home with the student. He noted that Commissioners Malkin and Gulati participated in the competition on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Heim said he would follow up on the email and would explore whether the work should be displayed at City Hall or mini City Hall in Crossroads Mall.

The clear preference of the Commissioners was that the work should be displayed at mini City Hall.

6. REPORTS

A. Commissioners’ Committee and Lead Reports – As Noted

B. Project Updates from Staff

Mr. Heim reported that the Cultural Compass process was officially launched by the Council. A consultant is on board who will be driving the first part, which is a cultural

needs assessment. The consultant has been working on a draft outreach strategy and survey tools. The Commission will be given an update at its July meeting.

Commissioner Gulati stated that after the Commission's previous meeting at which an update was provided regarding the cancelation of the Bellevue Arts Festival, Mr. Heim was told by Mayor Chelminiak to submit a follow-up regarding the details surrounding the cancelation, and to provide comment on the chances of the event being back next year. She said Mr. Heim's report is to be presented to the Council in fall.

Continuing, Commissioner Gulati said she recently had a discussion with the woman who has run the Bellevue Arts Festival for many years. The discussion made it clear that the same people will not be able to put on the festival again. If the city wants to see the event continued, and if a location for it is found, it will be necessary to find new people to take over. She said the person who previously ran the Bellevue Arts Museum event will be continuing in that role but as a private consultant. That person could certainly also spearhead the Bellevue Arts Festival event, which has traditionally been largely run by volunteers.

Mr. Heim said he would follow up on that. He noted that both the Bellevue Arts Museum and the Bellevue Downtown Association, which runs the 6th Street Fair, are looking for resources from the city to help with issues around permitting.

Chair Manfredi said it was his understanding the primary issue facing the Bellevue Arts Festival is where to site it. Who would run it is a secondary issue. Commissioner Gulati said that was true, but the loss of so many volunteers is also an issue for the event.

Commissioner Malkin asked staff to place on the Commission's July agenda a progress report regarding Art Space.

Commissioner Wolfteich asked about the recent damage to the Meydenbauer Bay Park tile mural on the beach house. Mr. Heim said the damage came about when an expansion joint running through the middle of the tile wall gave way. The artist had not installed the proper fixtures in order to withstand the flexing so the tiles had to be removed. The necessary repairs are being made and the tiles will be put back on again.

7. CORRESPONDANCE, INFORMATION

- A. Written Correspondence – As Noted
- B. Information
 - i. Committees – As Noted

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Manfredi adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.