

# CULTURAL ELEMENT

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# INTRODUCTION



Bainbridge Island is home to thriving cultural institutions, and to many artists, writers, musicians, and craftspeople, serving a local and regional public and many tourists. The forms of art and culture that we celebrate are as diverse as our population; they are embedded in our history and our economy. Although a *Cultural Element* is not required in Comprehensive Plans under the Growth Management Act, ours was added in 1998 to recognize the contributions of cultural institutions and many dedicated individuals to our quality of life.

There are specific and compelling reasons for including a Cultural Element in the Comprehensive Plan. Arts and *humanities* include visual, performing, and literary arts, museums, historical sites and landmarks, and many other cultural institutions. The arts and humanities are mechanisms for developing larger community values that are rooted in the interests of citizens such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design and are unto themselves a valuable element of the Island’s rich character. Support for the arts and *humanities* is an investment in the community.

The economic identity and vibrancy of Bainbridge Island is based upon its unique cultural values. These values have been historically developed and shaped by generations of Island residents. Invention, creativity, diversity and generosity of spirit and expression have led to the development of Island organizations, events, programs and individual pursuits allowing the community to flourish, enhancing its quality of life.

In 1992 the Bainbridge Island City Council, in recognition of the importance of cultural programs and activities, passed an ordinance designating the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council as the “legally constituted non-profit corporation of the State of Washington whose principal purpose is to provide planning, financial support, services and development for organizations and individuals engaged in the arts and *humanities* in the City” (Ordinance 92-31). This ordinance charged the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council to “prepare a plan for the arts and *humanities* within the city which is consistent with and may be approved for inclusion in the City’s comprehensive plan; ...” (BIMC 2.42.020C).

During the recession that began in 2008, the City Council chose to suspend BIMC Chapter 3.82 and BIMC Chapter 3.80, which had provided funding to local organizations via the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council (now Arts and Humanities Bainbridge). The City suspended new contributions into the public art fund during the recession. The Public Art Program itself continued to exist and there was significant fund balance that was available during that time. New contributions to the program, a percentage of capital projects, were restarted in 2015.

This Cultural Element continues to recognize that the arts and *humanities* significantly contribute to the City’s identity, *sense of place*, and economy.

## CULTURAL VISION 2036

Arts and *humanities* are an integral part of the community fabric. They contribute to the economic vitality, community character, livability, and quality of life of Bainbridge Island. The City includes funding for the arts in their biennial budget. This funding also supports local artists. Public art displays on City-owned property provide professional development opportunities for artists. A variety of housing alternatives are available to artists to enable them to live and work in the community.

Education programs to enhance understanding and appreciation for the history and heritage of Bainbridge Island are conducted for residents and off-Island visitors. The City's Historic Preservation program has preserved historic and cultural resources and farmland. Bainbridge Island is recognized nationally as a center of artistic excellence.

## GOALS & POLICIES

### FINANCIAL RESOURCES

#### GOAL CUL-1

**Support, protect and enhance the value of the arts and *humanities* as essential to education, quality of life, economic vitality, broadening of mind and as treasure in trust for our descendants.**

##### **Policy CUL 1.1**

Designate the City's agent to coordinate marketing strategies with arts, business and tourism organizations to promote cultural events.

##### **Policy CUL 1.2**

Distribute financial support for the arts and *humanities*, arts education and cultural organizations through the City's biennial budget process.

##### **Policy CUL 1.3**

Maintain cooperative working relationships with the Island's principal cultural institutions.

##### **Policy CUL 1.4**

Support the emergence of cultural spaces Island-wide especially in *designated centers* where they are accessible to a broad range of people encouraging both informal and planned gatherings and recreation.

**Policy CUL 1.5**

Encourage partnerships between the public, private and nonprofit sectors to engage in creative *placemaking* projects.

**Policy CUL 1.6**

Make creative *placemaking* a part of *subarea planning* and redevelopment projects.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITY AND ECONOMIC VITALITY****GOAL CUL-2**

**Preserve and promote the distinctive character, history and arts and humanities institutions of Bainbridge Island and take advantage of the Island's cultural stature within the dynamic economy of the Puget Sound region.**

**PARAGRAPH BELOW MOVED TO INTRODUCTION**

~~The economic identity and vibrancy of Bainbridge Island is based upon its unique cultural values. These values have been historically developed and shaped by generations of Island residents. Invention, creativity, diversity and generosity of spirit and expression have led to the development of Island organizations, events, programs and individual pursuits allowing the community to financially and culturally flourish, enhancing its quality of life.~~

**Policy CUL 2.1**

Promote Bainbridge Island's "Sense of Place" through an ongoing public dialogue about preservation, sustainability, hospitality and the influence of the arts, history and culture.

**Policy CUL 2.2**

Support artistic, historic and cultural events, institutions and places for sharing the Island's unique built and natural character with residents and visitors.

**Policy CUL 2.3**

Cultivate partnerships among the arts and humanities, economic development and the tourism sector.

**Policy CUL 2.4**

Encourage local support for a creative and economic environment that enables individual artists to live and work in the community.

**Policy CUL 2.5**

Encourage access to affordable work and living space for artists.

**Policy CUL 2.6**

Foster a climate that enhances the Island's national reputation as a center of artistic excellence.

## HISTORY AND HERITAGE

### GOAL CUL-3

**Preserve places where the Island’s history can be experienced, interpreted, and shared with the general public, in order to deepen an understanding of our heritage and the relationship of the past to our present and future.**

#### Policy CUL 3.1

Promote a sense of respect and appreciation for history and heritage among Island residents by supporting organizations that provide community education programs, school curriculum and oral history programs.

#### Policy CUL 3.2

Support the City’s Historic Preservation program to identify and preserve historic and cultural resources, including historic farms and heritage trees.

#### Policy CUL 3.3

Support adequate space to collect, preserve and interpret the Island’s history.

#### Policy CUL 3.4

Protect and develop cultural and historic aspects of City-owned property.

#### **Policy CUL 3.5**

**Recognize the probability of discovering new Native American cultural resources throughout the Island.**

## THE HUMANITIES

### GOAL CUL-4

**Promote understanding of humanistic inquiry as a foundation for civil society, enjoyment of the arts and lifelong learning.**

The *Humanities* foster a spirit of community where the richness of human experience is explored and nurtured through ongoing analysis and exchange of ideas about the relation to self, others and the natural world.

#### Policy CUL 4.1

Support community institutions such as libraries and museums which nurture creative thought and expression and exchanges of ideas between Island residents with community discussions.

#### Policy CUL 4.2

Foster public dialogue to acknowledge and appreciate different ways of living, thinking, believing and behaving in society.

**MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**GOAL CUL-5**

**Support marketing and communication systems to promote the arts and *humanities* through public dialogue, media and education.**

**Policy CUL 5.1**

Engage the City’s designated agent in coordination of marketing strategies with arts, business and tourism organizations to promote cultural events.

**Policy CUL 5.2**

Employ a variety of technologies to market cultural events to residents and as an attraction destination for off-Island visitors.

**PUBLIC ART AND COMMUNITY DESIGN**

**GOAL CUL-6**

**Create a stimulating visual environment by promoting public art and providing stewardship for the City’s public art portfolio.**

**Policy CUL 6.1**

Manage the City’s Two Percent for Public Art Program to provide opportunities for new projects and ensure financial sustainability.

**Policy CUL 6.2**

Promote the inclusion of quality art in projects built by both private developers and public agencies.

**Policy CUL 6.3**

Include public art in appropriate City capital projects.

**Policy CUL 6.4**

Maintain the artistic aesthetic of Bainbridge Island through inclusion of support for inspiring public spaces.

## CULTURAL IMPLEMENTATION

To implement the goals and policies of this Element, the City must take or continue a number of actions. Listed following each action are policies that support that action.

### HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

**CUL Action #1** ~~Adopt and maintain~~ Create an Economic Development Strategy to coordinate public and private efforts to grow and sustain a healthy economy on the Island.

NOTE: Same action in Economic Element.

#### Policy CUL 1.1

Designate the City's agent to coordinate marketing strategies with arts, business and tourism organizations to promote cultural events.

#### Policy CUL 2.1

Promote Bainbridge Island's *sense of place* through an ongoing public dialogue about preservation, sustainability, hospitality and the influence of the arts, history and culture.

#### Policy CUL 2.2

Support artistic, historic and cultural events, institutions and places for sharing the Island's unique built and natural character with residents and visitors.

#### Policy CUL 2.3

Cultivate partnerships among the arts and *humanities*, economic development and the tourism sector.

**CUL Action #2** ~~Consider~~ Establish financial support for the arts, *humanities*, arts education and cultural organizations as part of the City's biennial budget process.

#### Policy CUL 1.2

Distribute financial support for the arts and *humanities*, arts education and cultural organizations through the City's biennial budget process.

#### Policy CUL 2.6

Foster a climate that enhances the Island's national reputation as a center of artistic excellence.

**CU Action #3** ~~Consider~~ Include work and living space for artists when modifying housing regulations or commercial use regulations.

#### Policy CUL 2.4

Encourage local support for a creative and economic environment that enables individual artists to live and work in the community.

#### Policy CUL 2.5

Encourage access to affordable work and living space for artists.

## MEDIUM PRIORITY ACTIONS

**CU Action #4 Maintain the City's Public Art Program, funded as a percentage of capital projects.**

### Goal 6

Create a stimulating visual environment by promoting public art and providing stewardship for the City's public art portfolio.

### Policy CUL 6.1

Manage the City's Two Percent for Public Art Program to provide opportunities for new projects and ensure financial sustainability.

**CU Action #5 Integrate art, *placemaking* and public spaces when creating a subarea plan or updating City zoning-district based design guidelines.**

### Policy CUL 1.4

Support the emergence of cultural spaces Island-wide especially in *designated centers* where they are accessible to a broad range of people, encouraging both informal and planned gatherings and recreation.

### Policy CUL 1.5

Encourage partnerships between the public, private and nonprofit sectors to engage in creative *placemaking* projects.

### Policy CUL 1.6

Make creative *placemaking* as part of *subarea planning* and redevelopment projects.

### Policy CUL 6.2

Promote the inclusion of quality art in projects built by both private developers and public agencies.

### Policy CUL 6.4

Maintain the artistic aesthetic of Bainbridge Island through inclusion of support for inspiring public spaces.

**CUL Action #6 Protect and develop cultural and historic aspects of City-owned property.**

### Policy CUL 3.4

Protect and develop ~~Provide leadership by protecting and developing~~ cultural and historic aspects of City-owned property.