



Outspoken

Sponsored by:

Youth Link

A Feast for the Senses...

In Our Own Backyard

By Kate Reingold



When I attended the 59th Annual Bellevue Arts and Crafts Fair on the last weekend in July, I was miserable. Was it the heat? you might ask. How about the crowds? you could wonder. Or was it being so close to Bellevue Square but not being able to pop in for the last day of Nordstrom's anniversary sale? No, no, no, none of the above. The cause of my misery was the astounding array of awe-inspiring arts and crafts present, and the astoundingly little amount of money in my wallet. With the option of taking home a little something from every booth denied me, I had to settle for simply attempting to soak it all in.

Thousands of others like me flocked to this very spot to enjoy the culture, the atmosphere, the sights, smells, sounds, and tastes of one of the Northwest's greatest arts and crafts fairs. Over 300,000 people travel from far and wide ('far' being Oregon and 'wide' being Seattle) to experience Bellevue at its best. This "feast for the senses" included vibrant artist booths with wares ranging from impressive displays of cutlery and breath-taking photographs of Italy to flamboyantly colored musical instruments that were featured on staff t-shirts and event programs. One of my favorites was the self-proclaimed "non-starving artist" whose intriguing paintings of a fallen Space Needle and an eerily weathered Kingdome overrun by nature and raccoons captured my attention.

The nearby food stands caught my attention as well, but only long enough for me to inhale a bowl of strawberry shortcake (roughly 3.5 seconds). Tantalizing smells wafted through the air, undoubtedly emanating from the aforementioned shortcake. Fair-goers' ears were also catered to, largely through the ever-present beat of African drums, harps, electric violins, and chimes, as well as a live soundstage.

The younger attendees weren't forgotten either. The Kidsfair was held inside the Bellevue Art Museum, where young'uns (and the young at heart) could build wind socks or receive free face paintings, complete with glitter. Many brave kids chose to plunge their hands into boxes filled with different varieties of creepy crawlers at the worm exhibit. Unfortunately (or fortunately), I was not one of those kids.

Continued on page 2



The Magic of the Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair

By Megan Yeung



It is pretty rare when you can spot more teenagers outside Bellevue Square rather than inside shopping. That is... unless you happened to stumble upon the 59th Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair hosted in downtown Bellevue this past July 29-31st weekend.

Every year, the Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair is a family tradition for many Eastside residents. This year proved nothing short of it. While parents cruised the mini galleries of over 500 acclaimed local artists, children and teenagers alike had the chance to participate in fun hands-on activities that truly brought out their artistic abilities (or "unique" talents for the artistically unfortunate). They painted. They wired. They sculpted. From tiles to teapots, everyone had the chance to be their very own Van Gogh or Michelangelo. You be the judge.

If that was not enough, teenagers also had an opportunity to earn some job experience, through volunteering at booths, and working at the food stands.

The Kiwanis BBQ Beef stand was one stand smoothly run by local high school Key Club members to fundraise for the year's

"Something for Everyone!"

community service activities. Working side by side with the Bellevue Kiwanis Club, they served thousands of sandwiches using thousands of pounds of beef in just three days!

In addition to the mesmerizing art and the delicious food selections, live music was to be heard at the Bellevue Galleria. Music played ranged from classics to rock. Something for everyone!

These days, it is pretty hard to close the culture gap between children, teenagers, and adults, but that's the magic of the Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair. It proves to break the barrier and welcomes everyone to enjoy art together. Yes, it is pretty rare when you can spot more teenagers outside Bellevue Square rather than inside shopping. But let's keep it as a tradition.

Outspoken Teen Newspaper is a product of Youth Link.



Youth Link is a partnership of the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Public Schools.

Inside this issue:

Fun at the Fair ..... 1
Leadership Academy ..... 2
Picture Riddle ..... 2
Press Tour ..... 3
24-Hour Relay ..... 3
Youth Link Events ..... 4

**Climbing to the Top of the Ropes Course at the Youth Link Leadership Academy.**



**Jane Jiang conquers the ropes course!**



**High Ropes Course**



**Youth Link members making their way to the top.**

**Youth Link Leadership Academy**

**By Jane Jiang**

*Bellevue Youth Link is a youth leadership program sponsored by the City of Bellevue, Parks & Community Service Department and Bellevue Public Schools.*

*Founded in 1990, Youth Link gives youth an active voice in the community and an opportunity to make a difference! Bellevue Youth Link consists of the Youth Link Board, the Youth Council (BYC), and around nine Action Teams.*

About twenty students from the Bellevue area were staring up at a ropes course that reached up nearly forty feet against two tall trees. Some were apprehensive. Others were raring to go. But as the “belayers” down below picked up the rope slack during the arduous ascent, all became supportive of the climbing pair.

This was the third day of Bellevue Youth Link’s Youth Leadership Academy, which ran from July 25-29. The leadership camp was based in Blakemore House, the BYC’s usual meeting place. The four days of camp were filled with helpful speakers and team-building activities.

**Monday:**

Students were introduced to BYC by the Youth Link Program Coordinator, Patrick Alina; and they were introduced to the Youth Link Board by the Acting Recreation Manager for the City of Bellevue, Helena Stephens. They were treated to lectures and discussions about the meaning and importance of good leadership. Later in the day they also learned about the benefits of improving right-and-left brain connectivity with a representative from Swerve, a driving instruction group.

**Tuesday:**

Students visited Youth Eastside Services where they learned about a variety of community programs. Their next stop was Plato’s Closet, a second-hand clothing retailer that donates clothes to Youth Link’s Teen Closet. Students also helped out at a local food bank – a distribution branch of World Impact Network.

**Wednesday:**

Wednesday was devoted entirely to teambuilding at the ropes course. After a long bus ride through horrific traffic, the students split up into two groups. As one worked on the High Ropes Course, the other practiced cooperation and leadership at the Lower Ropes Course – after a few hours they switched.



**Thursday:**

Students wrapped up their four-day leadership crash course, and in the afternoon most of

them went on to help with setup at the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Fair. Says Andrew Gu, incoming junior and member of the Youthlink.com Action Team, “One of the more remarkable things that happened this year was the mad rush to volunteer for the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Fair... Patrick had to keep scooting people to another shift.”

The summer Leadership Academy proved to be a great way to introduce *newbie* members to Youth Link. As new friendships and bonds were made, students found themselves with a better understanding of the organization they were about to join. And by its end, everyone felt supportive and ready to go for the new Youth Link year.



**a Picture Riddle**



**answer: top banana**

**A Feast for the Senses...In Our Own Backyard**

*Continued from page 1*



Bugs aside, the Bellevue Arts and Crafts Fair proved to be an incredibly inspiring atmosphere.

Fairgoers reveled in the creativity of one of the largest and most notable gatherings of very gifted artists.

The fair is one long-lasting Northwest tradition that you don’t want to miss, so be there next year for the arts, the crafts, and of course, the strawberry shortcake.



By Edward Chang & Brandi Dorsett

BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

This past June, our Outspoken Staff members were invited to a press tour of the newly remodeled Bellevue Arts Museum.

"Bellevue Arts Museum is ready to emerge as a nationally important center for craft and design," remarked Museum Board President Angela Sutter. They opened their doors to the community this summer to showcase their exciting exhibitions! We found ourselves surrounded by 250 creative artistic expressions in *The Artful Teapot* exhibition.



From the Kamm Collection

Another highlight was *TEAlicious: A Global Infusion* exhibit which celebrates the ways in which peoples all over the globe, from ancient times to modern, have enjoyed and savored tea.



Iranian glass teacup

Our sneak peak of the featured objects included a spectacular glass installation by Dale Chihuly and a 17-foot bronze chair tower by Peter Pierobon.

Whether Art Nouveau is your forte or perhaps blown glass is more your style, the Bellevue Arts Museum is worth the visit. The exhibits and featured objects are truly a work of art!

Visit their website for more details [www.bellevuearts.org](http://www.bellevuearts.org)



By Julie Kranseler

*Bellevue's 24-Hour Relay Challenge is an annual community celebration that builds and strengthens partnerships and creates the momentum for youth and adults to improve Bellevue as a place to live, work, and play. Dozens of teams of adults and youth spend 24 hours walking, running, and jumping — all in perpetual motion! There's plenty of food, entertainment, prizes, and spirit for families, co-workers, neighbors, and clubs to join in. The goal is to create camaraderie and raise funds for youth programming.*

Bellevue's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual 24-Hour Relay took place on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the Downtown Bellevue Park.

There were 58 teams participating in the event this year and 750 people stayed for the entire 24 hours! There were over 2,000 visitors enjoying the festivities. Anyone registered in the Relay or anyone who stops by is welcome to participate in activities such as games or walking around the track in support of the Relay. They can also listen to live performances or enjoy the various food options. But, in order to stay over through the night in the *Relay Estates* you must be registered as apart of a team. Anyone who wants can form a team of 10 people.

"I think this event was a good community builder."

Youth and adults share leadership roles in planning the 24-hour-long event. Several teens and adults meet and develop positive mentoring friendships through their experiences at the event. Also, over 80 businesses and agencies support and sponsor the Relay.

Most people who go to this event have loved it and enjoyed doing community service while hanging out with their friends.

I think this event was a good community builder where you can give back by doing community service.

Relay participants having 24 hours of fun!



Resting between walks around the relay course.



Playful Relay participants!



The Relay stretch.

The focus of this edition is to highlight a few of the events that took place in Bellevue over the summer.

We would like to give special thanks to our Outspoken Summer Staff!

# Youth Link Corner

Bellevue Youth Council



Two Events on September 16th

## Friday ~ September 16th

**Youth Day of Caring**  
**8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Bellevue School District --**  
**Excused School Day!**

*In partnership with: Bellevue School District, City of Bellevue, United Way of King County, and Microsoft*

Event includes: Community Service Credit Toward Graduation, Service Project Team Leaders from Microsoft, Cool Day of Caring/Youth Link Tee-shirts, and Great Lunch!  
*Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors from Bellevue, Interlake, Newport, Robinswood, & Sammamish High Schools and the International School*

**Sign-up early!**

**Registration slots are limited!**  
Contact [teens@ci.bellevue.wa.us](mailto:teens@ci.bellevue.wa.us)  
or call 425.452.2846

**Also on Friday ~ September 16th**  
**Grambling State University**  
**"Mighty Tiger Marching Band"**  
**7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
**at Bellevue High School**

FREE Admission  
Admittance, by Ticket Only  
Free Tickets available at Bellevue Square, Crossroads Bellevue, and Factoria Mall

For more information call  
425.452.6881 or  
[grambling@ci.bellevue.wa.us](mailto:grambling@ci.bellevue.wa.us)

## Wednesday Nights

Join us every 1st and 3rd  
Wednesday of the month  
from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for  
our Bellevue Youth Link

**Council Meetings!**

**Location:**

Blakemore House  
10001 NE 4th Street,  
Bellevue 98004

Questions?

Call 425.452.5254  
or visit our website at  
[www.youthlink.com](http://www.youthlink.com)

## Bellevue Teen Closet

### Monday Night

Join us every **last Monday of the month for Teen Closet!**

Teen Closet is a clothing bank program operated by Bellevue Youth Link, in partnership with Plato's Closet and the World Impact Network.

Teen Closet distribution events take place on the last Monday of every month from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the World Impact Network sponsored location:

The World Impact Network  
2015 Richards Road  
Bellevue, WA 98005

Visit our website at  
[www.youthlink.com](http://www.youthlink.com)

## Outspoken Summer Staff

**Editor:** Edward Chang

**Staff Writers:**

Jane Jiang

Julie Kranseler

Kate Reingold

Megan Yeung

**Staff Assistance:**

Helena Stephens

Acting Recreation Division Manager

Patrick Alina

Youth Link Coordinator

Brandi Dorsett

Outspoken Advisor



**JOIN OUR  
OUTSPOKEN  
STAFF!**

Call 425.452.5254  
for details!

