

From: [Gill, Anthony](#)
To: [Commission-Public-Records](#)
Cc: [Canedo, Jesse](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on February 9 Commission Agenda
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 2:42:54 PM
Attachments: [Port letter signed.pdf](#)

WARNING: External email. Links or attachments may be unsafe.

Port Commission staff --

Please find attached a letter in support of the reauthorization of the Port of Seattle's Economic Development Partnership program, which is set to be discussed at the Port Commission meeting on February 9.

Thank you,

—

Anthony Gill (he/him)

Economic Development Specialist | City of Bellevue

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- Chapter 42.56 RCW



Community Development
**Cultural & Economic
Development**

January 22, 2021

Jesse Canedo
Chief Economic Development Officer
City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Port of Seattle Commission
c/o Commission Clerk
Port of Seattle
P.O. Box 1209
Seattle, WA 98111

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Bellevue, I wish to express enthusiastic support for the re-authorization of the Port of Seattle's Economic Development Partnership Program. Over the past several years, this program has enabled Eastside communities to better support local small businesses, create new opportunities for artists and creatives, and market the region to the global business community.

I am particularly appreciative of the program's flexibility, as it allows us to test and explore new program ideas. For example, using this funding we have:

- Launched a five-city partnership called Startup 425 to support small businesses and entrepreneurs on the Puget Sound's Eastside. In 2020, the partnership served more than 270 small business owners through workshops, more than 650 through one-on-one financial advising, and 10 minority- and women-owned businesses through a small business accelerator operated in partnership with Bellevue College.
- Tested placemaking activations and developed partner organizations in our downtown. In 2020, we partnered with the Bellevue Downtown Association on "Heart of Bellevue," a campaign which included 100 meetings with small business owners, social media posts, outdoor dining improvements, and banner signage.
- Explored new ways to support artists and creative enterprises in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of our traditional Bellwether Arts Festival, in 2020 we leveraged new partnerships to create a winter market, including an online Gift Guide and Artist Directory, allowing residents to purchase locally-crafted art directly from the artist.

Our partnership with the Port of Seattle has played a significant role in the success of our work on the Puget Sound's Eastside. I am greatly appreciative of your continued commitment to working with local jurisdictions to advance shared priorities. I urge the Commission to reauthorize this program and explore ways to expand its impact in the future.

Cordially,



Jesse Canedo

Chief Economic Development Officer
City of Bellevue