

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 13th, 2021

Remote – Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Quinton Morris (Co-Chair), Sarah Wilke (Co-Chair), Cassie Chinn, Chieko Phillips, Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson, Yeggy Michael, James Miles, Racquel West, Mikhael Mei Williams, Steve Galatro, Vivian Hua, Vanessa Villalobos

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Allie Lee, Kelly Davidson, Ashraf Hasham, Erika Lindsay, Alex Rose, Kristi Woo, Marshonne Walker, Jason Huff, Dominique Stephens (MO)

Guests: Alina Santillan, Pamela Banks (OED), Danielle Hursh (OED), Ebony Arunga (SAC appointment pending), Rick Araluce (SAC appointment pending), Reese Tanimura (SMC)

Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:05)

Approval of Minutes:

Sarah moved to approve the commission minutes from March 2021 pending edit to correct the typo of the word “covenants”. Steve seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Arts Community Presentation

Presentation: Alina Santillan, Director of Seattle Arts & Culture for Anti-Racism

Alina is the Director of Seattle Arts & Culture for Anti-Racism (SACA), a coalition of arts and culture organizations who are working to engage in intersectional, anti-racism work. He also serves as a Commissioner for the City of Seattle’s Community Police Commission, whose mission is to listen to, amplify, and build common ground among communities affected by policing in Seattle, championing policing practices centered in justice and equity. Alina welcomes and encourages Arts Commissioners to attend any of the programming and resources SACA provides. He would love to have more engagement from the Arts Commission at SACA and with the Community Police Commission.

<https://www.seattleantiracism.org/>

alina@seattleantiracism.org

Alina also invited Arts Commissioners to Seattle Center’s **Holistic Public Safety Lunch & Learn Series:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holistic-public-safety-series-tickets-144055811811>

(password: seattlecenter)

- SAC Questions:

- What does your org need right now?
 - o Needs more funding support for cohort. Need to make sure anti-racism work / impact extends beyond just what happens at org. Currently org has funds to sustain through September, and there will be fundraising opportunities.
- Can you please elaborate on the mutual aid work mentioned on the SACA website?
 - o Due to Covid many people in the sector got laid off and decided as a cohort to do own mutual aid network to support. Created a Google Form to give and receive anonymously - cash, rides, rent, groceries, utilities, etc. Cohort collectively made decisions and gave out \$5k.

City Recovery Strategy

Presentation: Pamela Banks, Director of Office of Economic Development & Recovery Director

Director Banks provided a slideshow presentation on “Vision for an Equitable Recovery from COVID-19” and is excited to partner with ARTS and SAC as she believes arts and culture is vital to our city’s recovery.

Recovery Vision

Seattle is a vibrant, innovative, diverse city with an inclusive economy that ensures all Seattleites can thrive and share in the new opportunities of the future.

Our Equitable Recovery efforts aim to build a thriving City as a whole, while also implementing intentional strategies that meet the varying needs of our neighborhoods and communities.



Recovery Timeframes

We are thinking about Recovery across three broad timeframes:

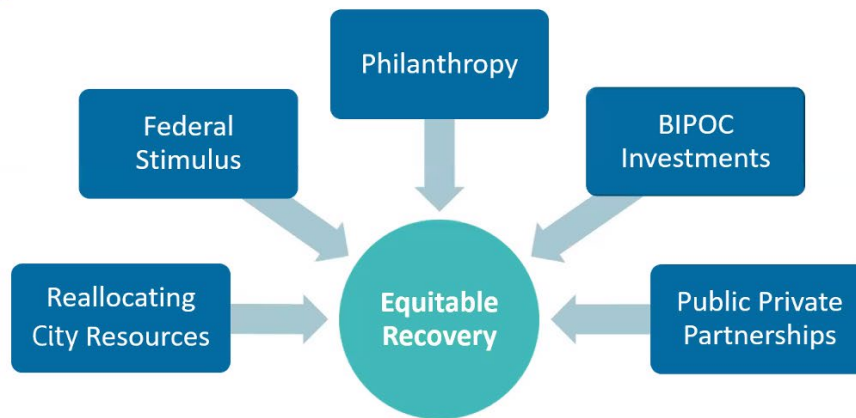
- **Immediate strategies**
Things we can do before widespread vaccination to restore interest in our neighborhoods and business communities
- **Near-term strategies**
Things we will roll out once we achieve widespread vaccination to coordinate returning to a new normal
- **Long-term strategies**
Multi-year strategies to address the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on communities and the changing nature of office work.



March 2021 Slide 3 of 11

Potential Resource Streams

An Equitable Recovery will require working with partners and community to leverage all available resources



March 2021 Slide 4 of 11

Community Resilience

Equitable Recovery efforts will ensure the City and our partners are investing in our communities so that all Seattleites have access to opportunity

**Access to
Opportunity**

**Community
Investments**

Economic Recovery

Equitable Recovery efforts will bring government, community, businesses, philanthropy, and non-profits together to revitalize the economic engine of the City and foster innovation in creative industries, culture, and retail.

**Supporting
Business & Industry**

**Meeting
Neighborhood
Needs**

What we are hearing from the business community

- Public safety is the number one concern, especially downtown.
- Rent debt.
- Empty office and commercial space.
- Online buying/digital divide.
- Vaccinations and reoccurrence.
- Commercial liability insurance.
- Tent encampments.

Downtown Revitalization

Working Group of External Partners meet bi-weekly with the goal of: Bringing Downtown back to life.

The group will focus on:

- Improving safety
- Creating room for innovation and creativity in arts, culture, and retail
- Ensuring key infrastructure projects move forward
- Bringing workers and patrons back safely



Images: Downtown Seattle Association

Downtown Revitalization Strategies

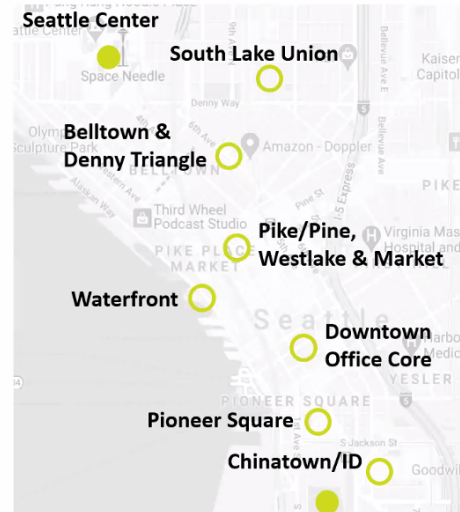
Guiding Principles

Downtown is the economic engine of Seattle. Our ability to effectively recover citywide depends in a large part on our ability to revitalize economic and cultural activity downtown.

Task – Location-specific strategies addressing:

- Activation (**Programming, Beautification, etc.**)
- Public Safety
- Empty Commercial/Office Space

(Some strategies will depend on funding and wide-scale vaccination)



Neighborhood-Specific Strategies

Starts with better understanding neighborhood-specific challenges and needs and developing strategies for revitalization.

Key External Stakeholders

- Small Business Advisory Council
- Equity district neighborhoods and BIPOC business owners
- Business Improvement Areas
- Neighborhood and community groups



- SAC Questions/Comments:
 - What is the plan for empty spaces in downtown? Will there be pop-ups? Is there a long-term plan?
 - There are permitting issues to work around, but trying to be innovative around those spaces and thinking about using the ground floor retail spaces as entrepreneur spaces for startups, artist spaces, etc.
 - Will first need to figure out how much space will be available, progress with vaccinations, and the permitting process. Until then temporary permitting will be available.
 - Artists can energize downtown and it would be helpful for a business to be paid even a small amount than to have their space be empty.
 - Need creative thinking around what can go into Pacific Place. There is activation \$ for those opportunities.
 - Consider live-work space ideas.
 - Before Covid OED had tenant improvement funds. Where will resources for that come from?
 - Access and opportunities for those funds will be available. Looking at higher amounts of money especially for small businesses.
 - For those who don't appreciate the arts, what do you say to those folks when talking about arts revitalizing the city?
 - Our city is diverse and supportive of a plethora of artistry. Believes the arts brings people together and so we must support an inclusive creative industry in Seattle.

NHL Seattle Funds for Seattle Center Activation

Briefing: Ashraf Hasham, Marshonne Walker, Irene Gomez, Kristi Woo, Calandra Childers

ARTS Cultural Partnerships and Public Art team provided a slideshow presentation on the NHL Seattle Funds for Seattle Center Activation. Information on the funding structure, pilot cycle, invitational selection criteria and process, artist roster, budget, activation sites, and draft timeline were provided.

- Background – ARTS has a new funding stream coming through over the next 10 years related to our relationship with the new arena at Seattle Center. The City negotiated public benefit with the developers of the arena; a 1% allocation from the development, which is split into two – first half to be used for a public art program on Seattle Center campus around the new arena (undertaken privately by developers and we made connection to artists/artwork) and the second half is for an activation program through ARTS over 10 years, which will be temporary and performance-based programs.
- Pilot Cycle overview – This inaugural year will launch as an invitational opportunity to support underfunded or under-represented artists, collectives, and organizations. These artists will activate areas surrounding the arena and the Seattle Center campus with a range of performances throughout the year. Following this initial pilot cycle, the program will become an annual open funding opportunity to continue offering robust array of accessible events for arena audiences and the public.

- Invitation selection criteria and process – Individual artists, groups, and organizations invited are 100% from communities most impacted by systemic oppression and meet one or more of these criteria from the past 2 years of funding cycles: 1) Not selected for an award; 2) Only selected for funding one-time; 3) Received limited funding (<\$2k).
- Performance Budget - Total Budget: \$175,000.00
 - Three tiers of funding for performance opportunities (small 2k, medium 4k, large 6k)
- Seattle Center performance sites
 - Small – Monorail and Thomas Street
 - Medium – Theatre Commons and Northwest Courtyard
 - Large – Armory Stage
- SAC Questions/comments:
 - True pandemic costs should be considered for artists to participate (missed time for jobs, childcare, etc.)
 - How are the small, medium, and large funding tiers defined?
 - Tiers were related to sites and number of artists needed for each site, 1-2 artists for small, 3-4 medium, 5 + for large
 - Meeting times should be accounted for in the funding.
 - 2k is a very small amount. Opportunities to help artists partner with corporations and networking assistance should also be provided.
 - Currently still in community feedback phase and will make sure to incorporate.
 - This seems like a great entry level opportunity.

Chairs' Report

Briefing: Quinton Morris, Sarah Wilke

- Acknowledgement of solidarity with AAPI community and recent murder of Daunte Wright. Acknowledgement that cycles of trauma are hard for everyone and that white supremacy is at core.
 - SAC Questions/Comments:
 - (from perspective of one SAC member who identifies as Asian American) Acknowledgement of AAPI events have been made in very few to no spaces since Atlanta, which has been frustrating, and especially white people have been silent. AAPI community feels this is a major incident yet many spaces do not seem to have the capacity to acknowledge. Had to educate staff as an org leader. Thinking about collective care and moments of authentic check-ins in meeting spaces.
 - Appreciate the naming of white supremacy at the core. We've also seen in media coverage and community talk where Asian and Black communities are being driven against each other. As much as we uplift Black and Brown solidarity we want to shine a light on Black and Asian solidarity too.
 - Is there City funding towards API?
 - Yes, currently working through City Council and slated towards DEEL, OCR, and DON. We don't have the exact amount yet but will share when more information comes.
 - Will be good for resourcing narrative change.

- Frustration that prime investment was in policing, which was not reflective of community thinking.
 - As schools are coming back to hybrid formats, there's more chance for students to be bullied in person, and hearing that all SPS did was send out links to resources, which was very highly unsatisfactory. Is there a way through the office to influence this?
 - Conversations are ongoing about this and Ashraf is happy to connect.
- Black Arts Showcase update – Quinton, Vivian Phillips, and Erika met with Cascade Media and decided to move the showcase to next year due to leadership changes at Cascade Media and due to unrealistic timeline considering logistics. Looking at March/April 2022 and will make a formal announcement this year on Juneteenth.
- Co-Chairs have been meeting with Deputy Mayor Tiffany Washington and talked about arts role in recovery, ARTS director search process, etc. Grateful for this connection that is still developing and will report back as we learn more.
- SAC budget priorities letter is due on 5/1. A draft will go out to SAC for review and approval soon.
- Co-Chairs encourage support with advocacy / Mayoral Forum participation. Loud voices get seen and heard.

Director's Report

Briefing: Calandra Childers

- Thank you for SAC participation at the 3/30 retreat. We are in a unique year due to election year; we have opportunities to engage in Mayoral Forum, Council election, and advocating for what the next ARTS leadership should look like.
 - SAC budget priorities letter draft shaped by conversations at retreat.
 - Mayoral Forum – gathering candidates to talk about arts and culture – in conversations with Inspire WA, Arts Fund, Cultural Districts, and SU Arts Leadership program, and want to make sure we are bringing all interested parties together and unifying our voices. CIC will be discussing details this week.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.