

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Hybrid – Zoom Conference & King Street Station Panel Room

Commissioners present: Vivian Hua (Co-Chair), James Miles (Co-Chair), Cassie Chinn, Yeggy Michael, Vanessa Villalobos, Chieko Phillips, Ebony Arunga

Staff in attendance: royal alley-barnes, Calandra Childers, Allie Lee, Erika Lindsay, Taira Jones, Kathy Hsieh

Guests: Ari Glass, Brangien Davis, Vivian Phillips, Jasmine Mahmoud, Quinton Morris

Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:03)

Approval of Minutes:

No quorum at this time, move vote to January.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Black Arts Legacy Project

Briefing: Vivian Phillips, Brangien Davis, Jasmine Mahmoud

An overview of the Cascade Public Media and ARTS partnership project, Black Arts Legacies, was provided by Vivian, Brangien, and Jasmine. The mission of the work is to highlight the longstanding, vital, and ongoing role of Black artists and Black arts orgs in the cultural landscape of the Seattle region.

Highlights:

- Work to date includes - narrowed the list of potential profiles, hired special project editors, developed a logo, kicked off project with Crosscut's programming/communication team, and developed a 2022 timeline
 - Whole project will be Black-led
 - List of potential profiles was narrowed down from a larger list of potential artists and orgs that SAC provided to consider
- Editorial objective is to educate and engage the public about the long and continuing history of Black artists and Black arts orgs. Content will include videos and written artist profiles
- Project is to be embedded across KCTS and Crosscut, will try to be maintained

SAC Questions and Comments:

- The SAC asked if there will there be more profiles to be written over time and if growth is worked into planning?

- Yes, this is intended as a pilot or “season 1”, and the hope is that we will get more funding and interest and keep adding to it.
- The SAC asked how SAC can support this work.
 - Advocating for more funding for important projects like this.

Artist Presentation

Presentation: Ari Glass, Cassie Chinn

Cassie introduced Ari Glass – Cassie connected with Ari through the Build Art Space Equitably cohort member Gavin Amos. They are now working together on a mixed media installation at the Wing which will be open for viewing next summer. Ari has deep roots in the Seattle South End and his work affirms the goodness of Black and Brown communities in the South End.

Ari shared 6 images of his work that display and express:

- Egyptian iconography with local places and people – “the people you see everyday are gods”;
- Architectural ceramic works that “uplift people and ideas” and depict a “welcoming know house in an ideal society where people can get knowledge”
- Cross migration of people and our ancestors and how people in the South End get together like family despite differences
- Spiritual elements in the hood and wanting to preserve the corner store that is now gone, which was vital to the community.
- “King Donuts” which serves donuts, teriyaki, and laundromat services represents the multifaceted condition of the people of the area. Guardian with lions protect the culture.
- Othello Safeway mural represents the people of Othello

Learn more about Ari’s work here:

- <http://arimuseum.com/>
- <https://artisttrust.org/artists/ari-glass/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/thesoufender/?hl=en>

SAC Questions/Comments:

- The SAC asked, how can SAC support you and the South End?
 - By helping Seattle artists get more exposure – shows, exposure to other markets, cities, countries (e.g., museums showing virtual galleries during the pandemic)
- The SAC asked, what would your message be to younger generations who are creating work?
 - That they are the greatest, that they don’t have to look at anyone else’s work, that they can leave a mark and a legacy that other people will pick up on, and that they should be as prolific as they can. What they make now might shift in the future, but they will learn so much in the process.
- The SAC is inspired by Ari’s use of space and encourages him to consider the [Seattle Restored opportunity](#) to create a space of their own

Engagement with Incoming Administration / Transition Team

Briefing: royal alley-barnes, Quinton Morris

royal and Quinton are both serving on Mayor Elect Harrell's transition team's Arts, Culture, and Nightlife committee. (Other members are Kate Becker, Sung Yang, Manny Cawaling, Duff McKagan, Constance Rice) They had their first meeting and discussed pandemic impacts experienced in own sectors, common grievances, and items that should be prioritized.

- There is strong consensus around the message that artists/arts is a working profession and contributes to the city's economy. Artists/creatives and workforce are not two separate categories.
- It will be important how Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian, and POC diaspora show up in conversations, especially for those unserved and underserved in our community
- It will be important to speak candidly about the transactional value for artists/art – what is a fair economic exchange for the work artists do in Seattle?
- Nightlife sector is interested in preserving historic buildings in the city
- Notes from each sector will be consolidated and efforts will be recalibrated to make strong recommendations on what Mayor Elect Harrell will need to focus on in his first 100 days
- Quinton and royal strongly recommend SAC to write a letter to the Arts, Culture, and Nightlife committee or directly to Mayor Elect Harrell with its own priorities and not be vague.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- The SAC asked what would be an effective timeline for the letter?
 - Quinton suggested not to wait on it and that it should be written this month - to have it on Mayor Elect Harrell's desk next month when he takes office would be ideal.
- The SAC asked if they can see the committees' recommendations before writing the letter?
 - Quinton responded that the recommendations will probably not be available before then.
- The SAC asked, with the goal of having the transition team build a good relationship forward, what is Mayor Elect Harrell's ideas about keeping doors open to ideas once the transition phase ceases? Feels this would be important for community and incoming members of SAC to know, and for advocacy purposes.
 - Quinton responded that Mayor Elect Harrell's team intends to answer all communication that comes to their office.
 - Quinton and royal will share this query with the committee at their next meeting.

Co-Chairs Report

Briefing: Vivian Hua, James Miles

- Letter to Mayor Elect Harrell – need volunteers to draft
 - Chieko has volunteered to draft
 - No need to start letter from scratch; pull salient points from budget letters this year

Directors Report

Briefing: royal alley-barnes, Calandra Childers

- ECI Cultural Education Funds to organizations (approximately 1.9M) will be encumbered by the end of the year.
- Due to time, the rest of the Director's report will be sent out via email.

Goodbye Cassie and Steve

- Cassie and Steve are terming out at the end of the year. Thank you to Cassie and Steve for their 6 years of service and leadership on the Commission!

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm. A year-end celebration/gathering followed at King Street Station.