

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 12th, 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

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Alex Rose, Ashraf Hasham, Erika Lindsay, Kathy Hsieh, Dominique Stephens (MO)

Guests: Reese Tanimura (SMC)

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

Approval of Minutes:

James moved to approve the commission minutes from December 2020. Yeggy seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Approval of SAC By-Laws:

Sarah moved to approve the revised SAC By-Laws. James seconded. Approved. *(Notification of proposed revisions were made to Commissioners more than thirty days prior to vote.)*

Directors Report

Briefing: Randy Engstrom, Calandra Childers

- Randy will be leaving the ARTS Director position at the end of January. Calandra will be stepping in as Acting through 2021. Today is Randy's last SAC meeting.
 - A save-the-date calendar hold has been sent out for Randy's send-off on 1/29.
 - Will officially announce Hope Corps/Creative Advantage donor advised fund @ Seattle Foundation on 1/29. Leveraging departure and offering catalyst for investment over time to advance arts community and support 16-24 youth who are most vulnerable and farthest away from economic justice.
- Next steps with Director search
 - Commission will stand up an ad hoc committee to help with a community led search and make sure our shared values continue in this process. Please email Calandra, Quinton, and Sarah if interested in joining this committee. Will work closely with the Mayor's office, which is the appointing authority.
 - Questions?
 - How does the office go about looking for candidates?

- The ad hoc committee will help decide an equitable process and sectors we should be looking at. These are questions that community outreach and ad hoc committee will wrestle with. Goal is to get a list of candidate profile items - skillsets, values, national vs. local, etc. We are also considering to hire an external consultant to help with the community-led process.
 - Re: local vs. national – need someone who knows the creative sector but also someone who can see what has been done so far at the city
 - Timeline?
 - Need to work with Mayor’s office to figure out exact timeline but we should start now with the process because we anticipate it will take some time.
- Cultural Space Agency is now in existence. Thanks to FED, Matthew Richter, Randy, and ARTS for help guiding the process. Great that we were able to extend the RET throughout the process. Thanks to the interim council for taking great care to establish governance and enable BASE/constituency to drive the process. Anxious to get governance running so we can get the permanent council in place because projects are here and ready to go!
- New Public Art Manager @ ARTS starting 1/20 – Amy Nguyen
- [Inclusive Creative Industries Director position open @ Office of Economic Development](#)
 - Seeking SAC representative to participate in interview panel. Allie to send follow up email with more info.
- SAC vacancies are currently under consideration by appointing authorities.
- Navigating Overwhelm Workshop: 2/10 (W) 1-3pm – Free interactive workshop for those who work in Washington state’s cultural and arts sectors, including staff of all levels and artists. Allie to send follow up email with invitation/link.

Chairs Report

Briefing: Quinton Morris, Sarah Wilke

- Black Arts Showcase Update – Vivian Phillips, Erika Lindsay, and Quinton recently met with Cascade Public Media (KCTS, Crosscut) and pitched the Black Arts Showcase idea. Cascade is interested in presenting the work and looking at both platforms. Challenge is funding, but Cascade will partially support. Goal is to launch on Juneteenth. ARTS to draft MOU.
 - Underscored that we are centering black voices, work is written by black voices, and we want community to speak for themselves. Excited that Cascade has agreed to hire black editors/writers.
 - Not just a one-off idea, but we are also looking at how to sustain this project.
 - Have not discussed whether this will replace Mayor’s Arts Awards, but we can have a larger conversation about that as a commission and do a temperature check. ARTS staff can put forward some recommendations to the commission.
- SAC workplan retreat
 - Commission will get together around early March to discuss workplan and overarching goals.
 - Items to focus on – discussion:

- Mayor's Arts Awards - Differentiating MAA and Black Arts Showcase. Need to find other resources for BAS to grow.
- Evaluation of recovery in the cultural sector – How to be responsive, what individual creatives need right now, how our programs respond to state of affairs.
- Mayoral election year – Advocacy will be important. How candidates value culture, racial equity, and arts will matter a lot because \$ is constrained.
- Re-examination of the commission - How can we ensure that arts and arts programs are supported across the city and what is our role up to the election and post-election? What is the advocacy work at all levels?
- Committees discussion at retreat?
 - Most of the retreat should be commission focused. That work will feed into the committees.
 - FED – Equity gap in creative industries will deepen, so where are we as a commission? Disaster gentrification, partnering with EDI on community participatory research to understand the impacts of this time period on BIPOC arts and culture orgs.
- Wellness and betterment of each other as commissioners. A conversation about an infrastructure where we can check in with each other.
- Times in the year when the Arts Commission and Music Commission can intersect.
- Succession planning for committee chairs and volunteers on committees.

ArtsWA Presentation

Briefing: Catherine Nueva Espana, Dr. Jasmine Mahmoud

- Catherine and Jasmine gave a slide show presentation introducing the [Washington State Arts Commission](#) and recent advocacy and funding, and facilitated a conversation on ways ArtsWA and SAC can work together. Highlights:
 - Programs include Public Arts, Grants, Creative Districts, Arts in Education, Governor's Arts & Heritage Award, Washington State Poet Laureate, Creative Forces, Center for Washington Cultural Traditions
 - Recent advocacy and funding – Yakima SunDome Conservation, Creative Districts Invest in Economic Resiliency Across the State, Creative Districts Capital Projects Grant Program, Stabilization and Recovery of Washington's Creative Economy
 - Together as commissioners, want to work more closely to make sure arts are supported and continues to be part of Inslee's budget. Highlights from discussion:
 - Support working with legislators in districts
 - Spreading the word/talking to legislators. ArtsWA doesn't do direct lobbying, but acts as a supporting arm
 - Making conversations personal and meaningful to legislators – ArtsWA is welcome to reach out to SAC members when seeking specific area expertise/personal touches in talking to reps.
 - Maybe meet quarterly, regular updates with SAC after ArtsWA board meetings

- ArtsWA can provide calendar in advance on key things happening.
- Will there be an arts and cultural day on Zoom? There might be a weekly caucus over the next month.
 - Jasmine will check and get back.
- Are conversations around digital equity/digital navigation for youth and artists also focused on career building?
 - Conversations have been more focused on basic issues like internet access, but Catherine and Jasmine will bring this up.
- Jasmine will follow up with Quinton on contact info and notes.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.