

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 14th, 2020

Room 314, King Street Station

Commissioners present: Priya Frank (Chair), Steven Galatro, Cassie Chinn, Holly Jacobson, Kayla DeMonte, Quinton Morris, Yeggy Michael, *Phone: Mikhael Mei Williams, Chieko Phillips, James Miles. Sarah Wilke, Sheila Ghaibi, Dawn Chirwa, Tracy Rector, Jescelle Major*

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Alex Rose, Ashraf Hasham

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

Approval of Minutes:

Cassie moved to approve the joint commission minutes from December 2019. Quinton seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Welcome and Introductions

The group goes around the table (and phone) for introductions.

Chair Report

Briefing: Priya Frank & Quinton Morris

1. Council Engagement Strategy:

- After the December SAC meeting Quinton met with leadership to strategize about the budget letter and how to approach Council. He is learning the landscape and how to support the commission in his new role as Vice Chair
- In the past, SAC has individually met with Council Members to make them aware of our current work. Our work has been quite steady over the past year, but since there is a large turnover in Council, this would be a good opportunity for us to re-establish the relationship
- As we develop our letter to Council about our priorities, we want to figure out SAC representatives of each council district so they can meet with corresponding Council Members
 - Commissioners are asked to provide their work and residential districts – Allie collected them
- Until 2019, we have been part of Council Member Lisa Herbold's CRUEDA committee. Starting 2020, we are part of Council Member Tammy Morales's CED committee. Council

Member Herbold is an alternate member on this committee. We will be providing an overview of ARTS and SAC work to the CED committee in late January

- We will continue to work on the SAC work plan over the next few months, which will inform the budget letter
- The SAC would like to know how to be supportive of Council's plan, and would like to communicate to Council that arts is an important part of all things happening in the city including housing, affordability, and homelessness
- The SAC asked how communication occurs with the Mayor's Office and Council. Randy responded that ARTS has fluid access to the Mayor's Office because we are an appointed executive office, while the structure in place to speak to Council is a bit removed from the Mayor's Office
 - ARTS is under Senior Deputy Mayor Fong's leadership from the Mayor's Office – perhaps we can invite him to a SAC meeting sometime

2. New Leadership positions

- We are still working on recruiting new leadership for committees
- New commissioners are welcome to attend committee meetings or meet 1-1 with current committee chairs
 - We will send out committee meeting info and contact info to new commissioners
 - We want to encourage commissioners and community members to join committees. Let's provide more information on each committee to the newcomers

Cultural Space Agency

Briefing: Matthew Richter

Matthew did a presentation on the Cultural Space Agency, overviewed the values, scope of work, partnerships, and timeline, and encouraged the SAC to provide feedback before it gets presented to City and external partners. Highlights include:

- This is a collective mission-driven cultural space real estate development and cultural community development company purposed to give agency to those without power
- Cultural spaces are viewed as the signifiers of a healthy community
- The office engaged with communities of color around this work for the past two years. The goal is to build wealth directly into communities and create transparent pathways from leadership to community

SAC Questions/Comments:

- How can affordable space be provided with high property taxes? Isn't that the cause of gentrification?
 - Cultural Space would be tax exempt through a State mechanism
 - We are not chartered to work with market rate developers
- How does the PDA work? Is it non-profit or government?
 - It is an independent government organization twinned with a non-profit, which allows government to hand support that would otherwise go through a competitive process. From the public's perspective it would appear as one organization

- Will there be a roster of organizations and artists in need of affordable space? Who prioritizes, and who is prioritized?
 - We may consider using BASE graduates (cultural organization connections) for vetting. This would be a competitive process. We do have a list of organizations in need – the needs are different and would require different models of how we engage folks. The Board is the decider (includes FED members, EDI (community), City-appointed interdepartmental members), but context is based on values
- Let's make sure we are not competing with organizations we want to serve/help
- The PDA can help build capacity for racial equity -transition of ownership (centering racial equity values), wealth getting transferred, etc. Let's think long-term and what our resources are
- Let's make sure to protect our small and mid-sized organizations in the process
- What is SAC's role with advocacy?
 - The Office will know more in February

Youth Arts Update

Briefing: Calandra Childers

Kristi Woo from the Youth Arts team will present on this topic at the February SAC meeting. Youth Arts applications are open to the public today – handouts provided. An email announcement will also be sent out to the SAC.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- Which communities should commissioners reach out to?
 - Communities that center on creative youth practices
 - Summer and afterschool arts engagement opportunities
 - We will ask Kristi to provide a more thorough response over email
- Do organizations apply or individual artists?
 - Mostly organizations, but a few artists are also funded each year

Director Report

Briefing: Randy Engstrom

1. SAC Council District Info: New Councilmembers have been sworn in, and starting 2020 ARTS is under the [Community Economic Development Committee](#), Chaired by Councilmember Tammy Morales.
 - Commission appointments will go through a new process
 - We are still in the process of confirming details
 - We ask commissioners to update their Council District information (work and residence) to start planning Council engagement. Information collected through handout and over email.
2. Arts Commission Matrix Review: We are asking commissioners to provide their background information (voluntary) to figure out where to focus our recruitment efforts, committee membership, and Council engagement. Information collected through handout and over email.
3. 2020 Workplan / Office Goals:
 - 5 large buckets of work that ARTS will be focused on in 2020:

- ‘Summer of Art’ – Build campaign that lifts and celebrates events, with Bumbershoot weekend to feel like a culmination of Seattle arts community
 - This will be established before summer and is currently coming into focus
 - Creative Youth – Realization of Creative Advantage work, Career Connected learning, and internships. This will have a place at the Future of Work subcabinet, align with the King Street Station 2nd floor co-working hub, and will focus on careers and the tech education side of arts education
 - Cultural Space Work – Establishment of the Cultural Space Agency as a way to build community wealth, which has a close relationship with the City’s Equitable Development Initiative
 - Inclusive Creative Industries Team (partnership with OED) – How do we build bridges between arts and tech, tackle issues of affordability, and prepare young people for the network economy
 - Making an inclusive space for everyone, civic narrative on what Seattle really is – This work will live under the Equity and Good government subcabinet
 - We will be doing an overview of our 2020 workplan to Councilmember Tammy Morales next week – We will talk about cultural investments in the large sense, youth, cultural space, creative economy work, and racial equity.
 - We are hoping to share an office workplan to SAC in February
 - Need to be tenable for all the committees
 - SAC and SMC Committee workplans should be weaved together by February, so we can share them back to the commissions at the April joint commission meeting. We will set goals together in April, we will revisit them at the September joint commission meeting, and we will assess them at the end of the year.
 - Budget implications – Need to meet in September prior to November Council budget deadline
 - Workplan authors – Committees themselves generate the plan and ARTS staff formats and brings together
 - Workplan outcome –
 - SAC Overview
 - SAC Subcommittees’ workplan overview
 - SMC Overview
 - SMC Subcommittees’ workplan overview
4. Joint SAC/SMC Meetings:
- At the November joint retreat, commissioners expressed that they wanted more joint spaces for cross-pollination and for community members to join. We are therefore proposing two joint commission meetings for 2020:
 - April during the SAC meeting time
 - September or November during the SMC meeting time
5. Creative Economy Report Update (Briefing: Alex Rose):
- We will have a final version of the Creative Economy Roadmap Report this week. We are currently figuring out how to make it accessible online along with other relevant reports.
 - A pdf version of the report will be made available to commissioners in the coming weeks

- This work is a culmination and report of the community engagement ARTS, OED, OFM did last summer around the creative economy
 - Other relevant studies include Andy Fife’s Special Events report, Ostara’s Film Report, Leah Baltus’s Arts Media Report, OED’s Creative Economy Report, and UW Evans School’s Racial Equity-centered Creative Economy Report
 - On 12/4, the City held a community Mixer event at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute to share back findings with communities we engaged with for the Report
 - See [Mixer video recording here](#)
6. SAC Buddy System: Pairing up new commissioners with existing commissioners to help with onboarding and make effort to build community. Each pair will meet with Randy or Calandra, and Priya will be added to all meetings as an optional attendee. Allie will coordinate these meetings. Names are drawn randomly from hat:
- Cassie and James
 - Dawn and Mikhael
 - Steve and Sheila
 - Quinton and Holly
 - Sarah and Yeggy
 - Jescelle and Kayla
 - Chieko and Tracy

Misc./Announcements

Briefing: Alex Rose

One of the themes we’ve been hearing consistently from our creative community is a need for more centralized ways to find out about resources (jobs, grants, gigs, insurance, professional development, small business advice, etc.). To this end, Alex is organizing January’s OFM Mixer as a casual “Resource Exchange” at Seapine Brewing on 1/29 (W). [See details here](#)

So far, the following groups have confirmed attendance:

- United Way tax assistance program
- Seattle/King County Clinic @ Seattle Center
- SMASH
- Seattle Public Library / Playback
- SEEDArts
- 4Culture
- Artists Up
- Mentorly
- Multicultural Community Center
- Parke Ave
- NW Film Forum
- Women in Film

- KEXP
- Musicians Association
- ACED
- ACES
- Washington Filmworks
- Whipsmart
- SAG-AFTRA
- Seattle Film Institute
- Art Zone with Nancy Guppy / Seattle Channel
- Ventures
- Washington Lawyers for the Arts

Alex encourages the SAC to promote this event to their networks and communities. An email follow-up will be sent out.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.