

## SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Remote – Zoom Conference

**Commissioners present:** Vivian Hua (Co-Chair), James Miles (Co-Chair), Rick Araluce, Kayla DeMonte, Chieko Phillips, Mikhael Williams, Ebony Arunga, Holly Jacobson, Jessica Caudle

**Staff in attendance:** royal alley-barnes, Calandra Childers, Allie Lee, Erika Lindsay, Taira Jones, Kathy Hsieh, Maritza Rivera, Ashraf Hasham, Alex Rose, Amanda Licorish

**Guests:** Curtis Yu

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

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mikhael moved to approve the commission minutes from November and December. Rick seconded. Approved.

#### **Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **Artist Presentation**

#### **Guest Presenter: Curtis Yu (Invited by Holly Jacobson through Path with Art)**

Curtis owns and operates Yu Tang Ceramics in the Fremont neighborhood. Curtis gave a slideshow presentation and shared his cultural background, mission statement, connection with Path with Art & teaching, studio space, Covid impacts, creating community spaces, process of working with clay as moving meditation, scholarship fund opportunities, images of his work, and goals. Connect with Curtis through these channels:

- <http://yutangceramics.com/>
- IG: @yutangceramics
- [curtisyu@yutangceramics.com](mailto:curtisyu@yutangceramics.com)

### **Transition Committee Letter**

#### **Briefing: Chieko Phillips**

At the last SAC meeting, royal and Dr. Quinton Morris provided an overview of Mayor Harrell's transition committee and suggested the SAC to write a letter to the Mayor outlining its priorities. The SAC Executive Committee helped frame the letter, which includes an introduction to the advisory body, a commitment statement to BIPOC inclusion, the commission's three current priorities, and a standing

invitation to the Mayor to join one of our meetings. The letter was sent to the Mayor in early January. Please reach out to Vivian or James if you have any questions about the letter and process.

**SAC Questions/Comments:**

- The SAC asked where this letter will get filed.
  - Chieko will send Allie a final signed version to upload to the SAC webpage and to store in City records.
- The SAC commented that the commission should consider creating a Google Drive.

**SAC Recruitment Update**

**Briefing: Allie Lee, Erika Lindsay, Calandra Childers**

- Panel recommendation process – We received 37 applications and the SAC recruitment panel (Chieko, Holly, and Kayla) volunteered to review them and score them over a week in early December, then met for a 3-hour panel discussion in mid-December. The outcome of the panel meeting was a roster of 13 potential candidates, 8 of them self-nominated and 5 of them nominated by another person. We will reach out to the 13 candidates to answer additional questions, and those nominated by other people will additionally fill out the original application. We will also be collecting resumes and bios. Once all additional information is gathered, the Executive Committee will review and narrow down the list for the full commission to consider.
  - We have 5 vacant seats – 3 council, 1 mayoral, 1 commission
- Mayoral and Council appointments processes change with the new administration. Final decisions are made by Mayor and Council.
- Potential Timeline
  - January – reaching out to short list of 13 candidates for additional information; we are particularly looking for folks to join PAAC / those with expertise in public art field
  - February – working with Mayor and Council on appointment process and forwarding them SAC’s recommendations
  - March – Going through the appointment/confirmation process in council meetings
- Some of this work is out of our hands as we need Mayor and Council guidance. The potential timeline is an ideal situation.
- The Commission seat voting process can move forward; Executive Committee can narrow down to 3 folks, and commission can have a vote.

**SAC Questions/Comments:**

- The SAC commented that the Commission should write CM Morales a letter and ask to move the appointments forward quickly.
  - James and Vivian will plan to write the letter.
- The SAC asked if those on the short list should be invited to our meetings.
  - ARTS staff suggested that we be careful about invitations since ultimately the mayor and council decides on the final appointments; we don’t want to say “come join us” and then have the appointment fall through. We can invite them to come visit us and learn more, but not set expectations.

- The SAC would like to increase communication to candidates about SAC processes. Who has been connecting with candidates?
  - ARTS staff have been sending notifications, communicating with candidates and applicants, and responding to questions they have.
- The SAC agreed that all commissioners are available to take questions from candidates.

## **Directors Report**

### **Briefing: royal alley-barnes, Calandra Childers**

- royal expresses appreciation for SAC’s contributions and advocacy.
- Deputy Mayor Kendee Yamaguchi will be overseeing the ARTS office in the new administration.
- Today ARTS transferred 500k to the Cultural Space Agency PDA to support the 2021 agreement. An additional 250k will be transferred within this quarter.
- Staff Shifts
  - Matthew Richter resigned and went full time to steward the Cultural Space Agency. We will be able to have direct communication with him on that work.
  - Calandra Childers will be going on sabbatical effective 1/24 – 8/15; Maritza Rivera will be stepping in as Acting Deputy Director.
    - Maritza introduction – Maritza worked with Deputy Mayor Tiffany Washington in the previous administration, is familiar with the cultural space work and ARTS, and is looking forward to working on recovery for the arts sector.
- 2022 ARTS Priorities
  - Focused on recovery and what it needs to look like for the arts and culture sector
  - We have several programs underway and several new programs launching this year. We are hiring a recovery manager who will help look at programs across the office and strategize how to meet the needs of Seattle’s arts sector focusing on unserved and underserved BIPOC communities. This manager will bring on additional members to the team, and over 2 years will help connect short term programs with existing work. We hope to bring the manager on board in February.
    - Part of the recovery fund programming includes the organizational funding RFP that went out last year with 4Culture. Panels are happening right now, and orgs will get contracted soon.
  - Hope Corps – the 250k Beloved program from 2021 will expand dramatically in 2022. We have 1.5M of federal funds plus 500K from an NEA grant (total 2M) for the next 2 years for arts and culture sector employment opportunities. At a future meeting, Creative Economy Advocate Alex Rose can overview what this might look like. We are taking in info from other cities and looking at best practices.
  - ECI Cultural Education Fund – 2M was dedicated at the end of 2021 and we contracted 1.9M with 31 orgs at 3 funding levels (100k, 50k, 25k) - all BIPOC orgs who didn’t have access before. There is an additional 0.5M this year potentially coming for ECI cultural education funding, and we are watching closely to see if Mayor Harrell will dedicate/ write this into his 2023 budget. SAC may want to note for advocacy in budget letter.

### **SAC Questions/Comments:**

- The SAC would like to see the ARTS priorities information sent in an email as follow-up.

## **Co-Chairs Report**

### **Briefing: Vivian Hua, James Miles**

- Discussion - Planning for 2022 SAC goals and committee work
  - In the past SAC has had a retreat in March, but currently considering TBDing this until we know the priorities of the new administration.
  - How would postponing the retreat impact work planning for committees?
    - Committees should start having their workplan conversations
    - Recovery and program specific topics are discussed at Executive Committee so there is alignment in conversations.
- SAC Co-Chairs role
  - Last fall, James and Vivian took on the SAC Co-Chairs role in an interim capacity. Is there interest for other commissioners to step into the co-chairs role this year? Please Let Vivian and James know. As we onboard new commissioners, we want to make sure to open up the role for people to step up as they desire.
  - James will not be able to attend all SAC meetings starting March due to teaching schedule, and it will be a lot of work for Vivian to carry when James gets busy.
- Chairs of committees
  - PAAC – Vivian (Interim)
  - FED – Chieko and Ebony
  - CIC - Holly and Kayla
- New Get Engaged member, Jessica Caudle, plans to attend each committee and contribute as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22pm.