**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Hybrid Meeting - In-Person @ King Street Station 3rd Floor Panel Room OR Zoom

**Commissioners present:** Vee Hua, Vanessa Villalobos, Holly Jacobson, Ricky Graboski, Leslie Anderson, Kayla DeMonte

**Staff in attendance**: Allie Lee, Kathy Hsieh, Jenny Crooks, Ashraf Hasham, Gülgün Kayim

**Guest:** Tom Mara, Cyrus Despres, Pinky Estell, Foteini Jacobson, Yolanda Spencer, Joël Barraquiel Tan, Dhyana Garcia, Megan Kiskaddon, Linda Chavez-Lowry

**Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:04)**

Approval of Minutes:

* Holly moved to approve the February commission minutes. Vanessa seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

* Pinky Estell (Uptown Arts District) gave public comment.
* Tom Mara (SIFF) gave public comment.

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements

* Round robin introductions
* Vee – Indigenous band event at The Crocodile
* Pinky - Doesn’t feel like there is great connection with the Commission and arts districts. There needs to be better dialogue headed toward same goal. Advocacy around ST3, help prevent displacement, parking issues for those visiting arts orgs, etc.
  + Holly - What action would be helpful from SAC around Seattle Center?
    - Pinky - Staying engaged on how big an impact transportation will have on the arts districts.
  + Vee – Please keep SAC in the loop.
  + Holly – Willing to start re-attending ST3 meetings and act as a liaison.
  + Tom – On the west side of Seattle Center they are placing the station up against the cinema. Please be informed on what the implications are for arts orgs. A few years ago a coalition among Seattle Center / uptown organizations developed as a platform for connecting with elected officials, Mayor’s Office, King County elected, etc. led by Jane Zalutsky.

**Co-Chairs Report  
Briefing: Vee Hua, Vanessa Villalobos**

* SAC Council and Mayoral appointments are moving forward. Council appointments will be introduced at CM Woo’s committee meeting on Friday and Mayoral candidates are being reviewed by SAC. As soon as SAC agrees to move forward with proposed Mayoral candidates, Allie will put together appointment packets and send to MO for processing.
* One Seattle Plan (City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan). Vanessa encouraged commissioners to ask their communities to participate.
  + Visit Engagement Hub for more info and timeline for community input: <https://engage.oneseattleplan.com/en/>
    - Public participation platform of Seattle Office of Planning & Community Development
  + Kathy provided an overview of the public participation process
  + Arts and culture element on pp. 163-170
  + Compared to the previous comp plan, this version has a growth plan, zoning details, and transportation. Might be helpful to comment on how this might impact the arts and culture scene.
  + Vee shared SSE article they wrote on comp plan for context: <https://southseattleemerald.com/2024/03/06/news-gleams-mayor-harrell-releases-draft-of-one-seattle-plan-movement-asks-wa-voters-to-vote-uncommitted/>
* Vanessa – re: [HB 1989 graffiti abatement and reduction](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1989&Year=2023&Initiative=false) – would like to discuss that this investment could have a disproportionate negative impact with implementation use of new identity-tracking equipment. Could perceived graffiti offenders be redirected to arts careers (engagement approach). In the legislation, what does “identify” mean; what type of paint will they use when spraying along I-5 corridor (environmental concern); and who is making the call to “identify” criminal behavior. Keep an eye out for impacts.
* Vee - A reminder to please review Mayoral candidates and respond to email thread.
* Planning to coordinate a SAC photo shoot.
* Planning a SAC retreat in early summer, maybe June.

**Director’s Report  
Briefing: Gülgün Kayim**

* ARTS strategic planning is starting at the end of March
  + Part of it is to have a conversation with our key partners, which includes SAC.
  + Our consultant Brenda Kayzar will come to SAC Execs meeting this Friday to learn about/talk to SAC.
  + Holly – Is this a prelim discussion and will there be other opportunities?
    - Gülgün – This is a first check in; ARTS is trying to put house in order internally and want to make sure we can meet the needs of community. Part of it involves coming together to talk about our goals amongst ourselves and with our key partners. We will talk about roles, ambitions, needs as we move forward, and if there is need to follow up further, Brenda will let you know. It will depend on the convo.
  + Holly – Would be good to get the new commissioners’ perspectives in the mix.
    - Gülgün – SAC Execs committee has been around and knows the work/history and would be good to have a candid convo where we don’t have to explain the SAC to new members. This is about us prioritizing ARTS’ work; you can let Brenda know about what you need such as a selection process, bylaws etc. At the end of day it’s about how ARTS can support you.
    - Vanessa – Can there be a survey to get new SAC perspectives too before Friday? How does this relate to KSS activations goal and budget for KSS activation?
      * Gülgün – We are currently under a hiring freeze and trying to work within our capacity. We are doing both KSS activation and DAP work now in terms of the deficit and hiring freeze. Through our strategic planning process (a 5-year plan) we are identifying priorities so we know what we can let go of. We also need to negotiate between elected officials’ priorities and ARTS priorities, and a strategic plan will help guide us.
  + Gülgün - Some of our other partners include OED and the Cultural Space Agency; areas we have connections with and impact us.

**Committee Updates  
Briefing: Committee Co-Chairs**

* FED – Had a successful reengagement meeting in February. Received updates from the ARTS office and discussed areas where FED can do advocacy. No major action steps yet; rebuilding and redeveloping work plan. Please make Ricky aware of any relevant issues.
* CIC – Focusing on 3 goals identified for 2024 CIC workplan – 1) support and guidance for ARTS’ PEG team 2) develop advocacy goals and strategies to increase investments in ARTS and arts sector 3) support a strong CIC. Will hear about Arts in Parks and Hope Corps at next meeting; working on membership; Kayla will take parental leave; and encourages new members to join.
* PAAC – Reviewed Licton Springs call/plan; Rapid Ride J Line revised plan; and SCL final Art Plan. Was informed that Jason Huff has been appointed as ARTS’ Public Art Program Manager.

**Community Share Out – What do we need to know about that community you serve?  
Briefing: All**

* Vanessa – Latinx dance community; La Sala <https://www.lasalanw.org/>
* Vee – [NWFF Narrative Apprenticeship Program Summer 2024](https://nwfilmforum.org/education/workshops/action-narrative-apprenticeship-program-summer-2024/) - The program is geared towards individuals who are BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and/or living with a disability, for whom on-set experience on narrative film sets has historically been difficult to access at intermediate and professional levels.
* Joël – Chinatown-International District is happening!
* Cyrus – Uptown Arts & Culture Coalition has an open call for an Artist in Residence. Please share the opportunity with networks. For more information, see the following page on our website: <https://www.uacc.art/artist-in-residency-call>
* Leslie – National Nordic Museum event <https://nordicmuseum.org/events/juoiggas>
* Vee – The Resting Place is hosting a fundraiser to stay open <https://www.instagram.com/arestingplace.sea?igsh=M3QzMGdlaG16cThr>
* Yolanda – Chief Seattle Club opened and remodeled, has a café and selling artwork from members <https://www.alalcafe.org/>
* Megan – On the Boards has been working with local drag artist Cherdonna and trans/drag artists from the east coast for a performance at queer auto body shop Repair Revolution in Sodo: <https://www.ontheboards.org/threesome>

Meeting adjourned at 5:01pm