

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

Remote – Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Vivian Hua (Co-Chair), James Miles (Co-Chair), Cassie Chinn, Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson, Steve Galatro, Rick Araluce, Vanessa Villalobos, Ebony Arunga

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Allie Lee, Erika Lindsay, Kelly Davidson, Taira Jones, Ashraf Hasham, Alex Rose, Mike Davis

Guests: Aramis Hamer, Olivia Baker (Seattle Planning Commission)

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

Approval of Minutes:

James moved to approve the commission minutes from October. Rick seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Welcome & Announcements

- Olivia Baker from the Seattle Planning Commission joined to observe the meeting.
- Path with Art - Art for All Ball 2021 event 11/13 (S) 6pm
Art for All Ball 2021: reIMAGINE reCREATE, will feature six community leaders sporting spectacular, sustainable, recycled designs co-created by Path with Art participants and “found fashion” designers. Learn more here: <https://www.pathwithart.org/artforallball-2021>

Artist Presentation

Guest Presenter: Aramis Hamer

Aramis gave a slideshow presentation and shared her life story, background, passion, inspirations, creative career and milestones, and how her art has evolved over time. Connect with Aramis through these channels:

- <https://aohamer.com/>
- YouTube: A.O. Hamer
- FB: A.O. Hamer
- IG: @aohamer
- aramis@aohamer.com

SAC Questions and Comments:

- How can SAC support you?
 - It is important to carry the same message through and educate folks about artists and their work – artists must be valued and compensated properly. Artists should not be underpaid.
 - Help artists out there by “liking” their work on social media, purchasing their work, and showing up for their work. If you are an artist, talk to them and share your tools.

Creative Advantage All Access Arts Stream (CAAAAS) Presentation

Briefing: Tina LaPadula, Arts Education Project Manager

Tina gave a slideshow presentation about Creative Advantage All Access Arts Stream, which is a program of online synchronous arts classes for young people created in collaboration between Parks and Recreation, ARTS, Seattle Public Schools, and Creative Advantage Arts Partners. This program started as a pandemic pilot in December 2020 and grew into classes last spring. We had such a positive response from parents and students that it’s back by popular demand this fall featuring 3 virtual 6-week classes for elementary-aged youth. Highlights:

- Creative Advantage team was exploring ways to ensure students could still access arts learning from Roster partners despite limited online school schedules and decided to use funding to host streamed arts ed content and blur the lines between “school time” and “out-of-school time”.
- Throughout program development, the team centered creative process / power. (planning → experimentation → collective reflection → revision)
- Class topics include poetry, dancing, pop-up books, facilitated conversations on performances, etc.
- Classes are happening now and will potentially continue in winter / spring 2022.
- Young people and families expressed their desire to keep this program; thinking about expanded access to folks with disabilities.

Equitable Communities Initiative Program Update

Briefing: Mike Davis, Cultural Education Advisor

ARTS will support the ECI ([Equitable Communities Initiative](#)) by hosting a community-supported process to distribute ECI funds to organizations providing cultural education opportunities for BIPOC youth. SAC is invited to make nominations for organizations. In a follow up email, Mike will provide a more detailed information document and a master list of organizations for consideration. SAC is encouraged to review the documents and make nominations.

- Last date to submit nominations is 11/15/2021; working on a slimmer and quicker process to get funds out the door as efficiently as possible
- Seeking organizations with deep connections in community doing work of cultural education – BIPOC-led for BIPOC youth. Criteria was developed by ECI.
- ARTS has reviewed programs we’ve engaged with in the past, but we also want to hear from SAC in case there are any we are missing.
- Also seeking more panelists who will help decide who gets funding. Commissioners (both SAC and SMC) are encouraged to take part. If interested, please email Mike at michael.davis3@seattle.gov

Co-Chairs Report

Briefing: Vivian Hua, James Miles

- **Post-election engagement with incoming administration – discussion:**
 - Need to voice our standing in the city to Mayor Durkan and Mayor Elect Harrell. It would be effective for a SAC member to be able to sit on the transition committee. Let's reach out by email/letter to see how we can get involved.
 - Vivian started a draft letter and has emailed to SAC for input.
 - If invited, who would be on the transition committee?
 - The ask – ask if there are ways for the Mayor Elect to connect with arts and culture and let them know SAC is ready to have conversations about the needs of the sector and is ready to support.
 - Several SAC members have potential connections with the Mayor Elect and campaign folks and will seek advice.
 - Talking points can refer back to forum survey questions.
 - CIC can also take on this advocacy work and Holly and Kayla will support with the letter.
- **Council budget letter update**
 - We've acknowledged Council's amendments to the budget proposal, asked them to support the ones that they didn't put forward, and asked them to support ones that others put forward. We will find out how things go when the initial balancing package comes out on 11/12.
 - To see the overall areas where Council is making changes to the budget in the initial balancing package, go to this link:
<https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9949324&GUID=5CC0CB5F-77CD-4062-8A28-6B9E7F04C52F>
 - These changes are not set in stone, so it is important for SAC to continue to voice priorities and engage with Council.
 - **SAC Questions and Comments:**
 - Should we narrow down our asks? Perhaps a singular focus on the Cultural Space Agency as an advocacy strategy?
 - The Cultural Space Agency was a walk on that CM Morales brought on. It might be worth reaching out to CM Morales for a temperature check; did this not have support across Council, would it have been better at a lower \$\$ amount, and trying to understand why it moved the way it did. Cassie will connect with Darozyl from CM Morales's office.
 - We need 5 Councilmembers to be on board for this to move. Connecting with Councilmembers Morales, Herbold, Mosqueda, Sawant, and Gonzalez may be helpful.
 - There is another opportunity to give public comment to Council tomorrow and on 11/18. The sooner the advocacy, the better.
 - Ebony will attend public comment tomorrow.
 - Also, if you are compelled to send a letter on your own, please do so.
- **Year-end event**
 - Should SAC have a celebration / gathering at King Street Station? Or something virtual?
 - If @ KSS, vaccinations and masks are required
 - We should celebrate around Delbert's show
 - Let's have event on 12/14, SAC December meeting day with a virtual option

Directors Report

Briefing: Calandra Childers

- ARTS applied to the NEA Federal Relief funding for Hope Corps / individual artists and just heard that we were recommended for the full 500k that was applied for! Huge appreciation to Alex Rose and ARTS' cultural investments team for leading the proposal and work.
- SAC Nominations - If you haven't done so already, please share widely the opportunity to join the Seattle Arts Commission with your communities and networks! If someone you know would like to champion the arts and advise on policy at city level, please have them complete [this simple application!](#)
 - You can also share this opportunity via FB and IG:
<https://www.facebook.com/SeattleArts/posts/257932816363479>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CVd31cjBTp7/>
- [Comprehensive Plan](#) update – every 10 years the Comprehensive Plan gets updated by law, and those leading the work at OPCD would like feedback from community and would like to engage with SAC. We've asked that they provide a clear request on what kind of information they want from SAC and how arts can be integrated in all aspects of the city rather than a siloed approach. We hope to invite them to a SAC meeting in 2022 and learn how arts and culture is being thought of in the overall planning.

SAC Questions and Comments:

- Is there an update on the ARTS director search advisory's efforts? Is that still a priority?
 - Erika will reconvene with Mikhael and Vanessa to discuss next steps. The goal is to connect with the next administration and the timeline will depend on the Mayor Elect's responsiveness.
 - Prioritization is up to commissioners and community advisors.
- Is the Black Arts Showcase still happening?
 - We will get more info from Erika and follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.