**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

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

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

**Staff in attendance**: Allie McGehee, Allie Lee, Kathy Hsieh

**Guests:** Yolanda Spencer, Athena Scott, Kat Ogden, Mike Huang, Chris Swenson, Victoria Watts, Jessica Reeves, Angela Castañeda

**Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:10)**

**Sharing of Indigenous Events**

* Halluci Nation - <https://thehallucination.com/press-kit/>
* Weaving Spirits Festival - <https://www.weavingspirits.com/>
* City Hall Park “Monuments” installation - <https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/visual-arts/watch-trees-turn-into-monuments-at-seattles-new-public-art-exhibit/>

**Public Comment:**

* Victoria Watts gave public comment introducing the [Moisture Festival](https://moisturefestival.org/).

**Cinerama Public Benefits Agreement Collaboration Proposal**

**Briefing: Chris Swenson (OED), Kat Ogden (Seattle Film Commission), Mike Huang (Seattle Film Commission)**

* Chris gave an overview of the work of Office of Economic Development (OED) and its two commissions – The [Seattle Film Commission](https://seattle.gov/filmandmusic/film/seattle-film-commission) and [Seattle Music Commission](https://www.seattle.gov/filmandmusic/music/seattle-music-commission)
* Chris gave an overview of the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF), [its purchase of Cinerama](https://www.siff.net/press-releases/pr-cinerama-announcement), and [the amendment to fund SIFF to reopen Cinerama which passed Seattle City Council](https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/siff-funding-reopen-cinerama-approved/281-00b26fec-6364-4c2d-8e28-d4cc4875d3ed)
  + The amendment gives SIFF a one-time $950,000 grant from the Arts & Culture fund. In exchange for financial assistance, SIFF will be responsible for providing benefits to the public.
  + The funding was a result of SIFF’s direct work with Councilmember Andrew Lewis. OED and ARTS were not part of this work.
  + The Seattle Film Commission was named as the advisory to help with developing the public benefits agreement for Cinerama operations.
  + ARTS Interim Director Kayim recommended Seattle Film Commission outreach to Seattle Arts Commission to work across commissions on the public benefits agreement.
* Kat & Mike - Seattle Film Commission would like to hear from SAC as it deliberates.
  + Cinerama represents more than film. Priorities include centering equity, inclusion, youth engagement, public activities, local festivals, local filmmakers, and community engagement.
  + Seattle Film Commission has assembled its working group. Would like to meet soon with SAC participants due to urgency to open the venue.
  + Main scope – the two main goals are 1) develop workforce around film industry 2) market Seattle as film city (to be able to make films but also able to live and work). Want to stay true to mission of being inclusive, diverse, sustainable, and including those who have been historically left out.
  + Seattle Film Commission is still a relatively new commission. [Members](https://www.seattle.gov/filmandmusic/film/seattle-film-commission/seattle-film-commissioners) represent different parts of the sector.

**Questions & Comments:**

* VH – Has the Film Commission met with Tom Mara, SIFF Executive Director?
  + KO – There seems to be a primary focus on internships – a super internship model/youth engagement. Other focus areas are downtown activation plan relates/civic engagement and access to arts (free tickets).
    - VH – Free tickets need to get to communities who need them. How about supporting local film festivals in this space? The focus areas still seem a bit self-serving and not public benefits just yet.
* KH – Heard concerns from arts and culture organizations that the grant amount is significant compared to many grants combined. We have so many diverse festivals and need to expand access. Need to think about intersectionality in the public benefits. Perhaps a townhall or survey for community to weigh in.
* CS – SIFF should provide these benefits more broadly.
* VV – Want to recognize that this was initially discussed between SIFF and Councilmember Lewis. Need to think about the idea of participation – what does it mean to be racially equitable. There is a level of honesty that needs to happen in terms of including other voices – inequity happens because inclusion of voices doesn’t happen and we need to keep pushing ourselves. This is the hope for our joint commission work. Is there wealth transfer that can happen through public benefits? How can we think outside the box, so this is not just about Cinerama?
  + VH – Perhaps a process for accountability?
    - VV – Trust gets carried to City staff.
    - AM – ARTS will hold the contract and will be responsible for the deliverables. There will be a staff person associated with the contract.
  + HJ – It would be a win-win to collaborate with other organizations and make space open to others.
* KO/VH – Next steps - SAC and Film Commission will get together before meeting with Tom Mara.
* VV – What do we do to come up with a better process, to push for future funds that will get distributed equitably, what are the lessons learned for future/similar decisions regarding excess public funds
  + KH/AM – This decision didn’t follow the regular budget timeline; usually it’s part of the budget process between departments and budget office; this year actuals came in higher than the forecast; even staff learned of this decision from media; need to be more strategic going forward.

**Co-Chairs Report**

**Briefing: Vee Hua, Vanessa Villalobos**

* **Vee gave an overview of SAC’s retreat outcomes:**
  + Collectively agreed upon main items to focus on based on the mission of SAC:
    - Long term strategy for SAC
    - Equitable recommendations for SAC participation
  + Arts policy
    - Build council member relationships
    - Develop strategies within existing policy priorities
    - Build coalitions for other efforts demonstrating arts’ community and economic value i.e., Film Commission, Music Commission, Inspire WA?
    - Supporting Cultural Space Agency to ensure affordable equitable art and artist space
  + Equitable participation
    - Creating access for equitable participation in the arts.
    - Oversight of and guidance (best practices for policymakers) for funding to arts orgs and artists
  + Fostering engaging arts engagement for residents
    - Mixer similar to OED, maybe by partnering with organizations like ArtsFund and in advance of budget letter crafting to talk about important issues and get community input
    - Equitable arts access opportunities- transportation, etc. (Such as advocating to City Council related to use for extra admissions tax)- ASK SDOT about passes, etc. they may have to offer)
* **SAC will be hosting a community meet-and-greet with Gülgün**
  + 10/10 (T) after the October public meeting. Details TBD.

**Questions & Comments:**

* VH – How do these items look to staff?
  + KH – SAC building relationships with councilmembers/advocacy work is important.
* VH – Let’s do more strategy work on the work plan at the next meeting.

**Director’s Report**

**Briefing: Allie McGehee on behalf of Gülgün Kayim**

* ARTS Deputy Director Maritza Rivera has resigned. Gülgün will appoint a temporary Deputy Director while preparing for an open search / competitive process for a new permanent Deputy Director.
  + The search for a permanent Deputy Director will be ~4 months process.
  + Gülgün would like to know how SAC would like to be involved in the process.
* Budget update
  + We are currently in the executive phase of the budget; it is coming to a conclusion.
  + Mayor Harrell will do a community budget speech on 9/26 where his priorities will be announced and the embargo will be lifted. ARTS will send out information to stakeholders including SAC.
  + Second phase of the budget will be the Council process – adjustments will happen as we need to have a balanced budget.

**Questions & Comments:**

* HJ – How does the forecasting go on the budget?
  + AM – There is a revenue update scheduled for October. If there is more $ available in the Arts & Culture fund, that can go to add to something – it will be balanced to the revised revenue forecast.
  + HJ – Usually percentage wise is it incremental?
    - AM – Yes, Council adjustments are incremental.
* VV – Wondering if we have the time to go over the budget and discuss recommendations. What are the parameters for us to ask for something. Can we talk and learn more about the budget at the next meeting?
  + AM – Happy to go over the budget and process with SAC.
  + KH – In the past we have asked SAC to share with their communities/networks the public hearings opportunities during the Council process.

**Committees Updates**

**Briefing: Committee Chairs**

* Facilities and Equitable Development Committee - Not present.
* Cultural Investments Committee – Discussed the CIC workplan and invited Allie M, ARTS Finance Manager to provide a 101 overview of admission tax
* Public Art Advisory Committee – Several projects underway for review and recommended approval at the 9/26 meeting. Will also be discussing the draft public art roster.

Attendees each shared activities happening in their areas/networks.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

*Zoom Chat:*

*16:05:44 From Athena Scott to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Welcome Athena!" with ❤️*

*16:14:22 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*no it's HALLUCI NATION my bad!*

*16:14:32 From Holly to Everyone:*

*WHEN?? (Tribe called Red, which aren’t they names Hallucination now?)*

*16:14:37 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Can you all drop event links in the chat?*

*16:14:39 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*https://www.vividseats.com/the-halluci-nation-tickets-tacoma-alma-mater-10-3-2023--concerts-other-concerts/production/4577121*

*16:14:43 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Thank you!*

*16:14:44 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*yes halluci nation hehe*

*16:14:44 From Kathy Hsieh (she/her) to Everyone:*

*Two Spirit Festival just had their event at On the Boards this past weekend. There was also a cool temporary public art installation at City Hall Park this past week.*

*16:14:57 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*https://thehallucination.com/press-kit/*

*16:15:00 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*oooh cool*

*16:15:27 From Leslie Anderson to Everyone:*

*At the National Nordic Museum: https://nordicmuseum.org/exhibitions/arctic-highways*

*16:19:49 From Holly Jacobson she/her Path with Art to Everyone:*

*^ Very cool, LEslie*

*16:22:24 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Welcome everyone!*

*16:24:02 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Victoria*

*16:24:09 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*got it! my confused*

*16:27:48 From iPhone to Everyone:*

*I have to jump off in 5 min for a another meeting and I really appreciate the time to meet you all and my email yolanda@chiefseattleclub.org*

*16:28:01 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Thank you Yolanda!!*

*16:28:04 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Thanks Victoria*

*16:28:15 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Great to have you join us Yolanda*

*16:41:13 From Chris Swenson [he/him] to Everyone:*

*https://www.seattle.gov/filmandmusic/film/seattle-film-commission*

*16:41:29 From Chris Swenson [he/him] to Everyone:*

*https://www.seattle.gov/filmandmusic/film/seattle-film-commission/seattle-film-commissioners*

*16:41:33 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "https://www.seattle...." with 👍🏼*

*16:41:43 From Jessica Reeves to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "https://www.seattle...." with 👍🏼*

*16:44:57 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*100%*

*16:47:43 From Kathy Hsieh (she/her) to Everyone:*

*I think community based groups would actually appreciate access to any of SIFF's spaces.*

*16:51:06 From Michael Huang to Everyone:*

*+1 to that question!*

*16:54:39 From Michael Huang to Everyone:*

*Very much appreciate everyone’s thoughts and intention toward this work already. Looking forward to having our joint commission meeting!*

*16:55:14 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*did that meeting tme get finalized yet*

*16:55:34 From Kat Ogden [she/they] to Everyone:*

*No, the meeting with Tom has not been set.*

*16:55:44 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*ok ill followup*

*16:57:23 From Kat Ogden [she/they] to Everyone:*

*Thanks Vee!*

*16:57:58 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*What do we do to come up for a better process - as a lessons learned place for future/similar decisions regarding excess public funds.*

*16:59:27 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Valuable point.*

*16:59:52 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*IN CIRCLE HERE WERE COLLECTIVELY AGREED-UPON MAIN THINGS TO FOCUS ON, BASED ON "MISSION" OF SAC: The Seattle Arts Commission supports the City by advocating for arts policy, creating access for equitable participation in the arts, and fostering enriching arts engagement for all residents.*

*Long term strategy for SAC*

*[1 vote - LA]*

*Equitable recommendations for SAC participation*

*[1 vote - HJ]*

*17:00:13 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*ARTS POLICY Build council member relationships [2 votes - VH, HJ] Develop strategies within existing policy priorities [4 votes - KD, LA, VH, HJ] Build coalitions for other efforts demonstrating arts’ community and economic value i.e., Film*

*Commission, Music Commission, Inspire WA?*

*[2 votes - KD, HJ]*

*Supporting Cultural Space Agency to ensure affordable equitable art and artist space*

*[1 vote - VH]*

*17:01:35 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION Creating access for equitable participation in the arts. Oversight of and guidance (best practices for policymakers) for funding to arts orgs and artists [1 vote - KD] FOSTERING ENGAGING ARTS ENGAGEMENT FOR RESIDENTS Mixer similar to OED, maybe by partnering with organizations like ArtsFund and in advance of budget letter crafting to talk about important issues and get community input [1 vote - VH] Equitable arts access opportunities- transportation, etc. (Such as advocating to City Council related to use for extra admissions tax)- ASK SDOT about passes, etc. they may have to offer)*

*[1 vote - LA]*

*17:01:49 From Angela Castañeda to Everyone:*

*Thank you for inviting me Vanessa, so sorry to pop in late but it’s really nice to see some of you that I know, and listen to all. Thanks for having me (Angela Castañeda, ESES Collective/Beacon Business Alliance and CSA Governance*

*17:01:57 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*hi angela*

*17:02:35 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Glad to see you Angela. Thank you for stopping by.*

*17:03:06 From Kayla DeMonte to Everyone:*

*Also: Kudos to Kathy and the ARTS cultural investments team for developing really comprehensive processes for the grant funds that gets DO distributed through ARTS.*

*17:03:13 From Kathy Hsieh (she/her) to Everyone:*

*And that's where the Commission's meetings with City Council members have always been vital and can be moving forward.*

*17:03:41 From Allie M. (she/her) to Everyone:*

*Moving to another space. Be right back.*

*17:03:52 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Thank you SFC!*

*17:03:58 From Chris Swenson [he/him] to Everyone:*

*Thank you all so much for your time on this!*

*17:03:59 From Michael Huang to Everyone:*

*Thank you all!*

*17:04:35 From Kat Ogden [she/they] to Everyone:*

*Thank you to all!*

*17:09:48 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Director’s Report is next*

*17:11:11 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*is that OK holly*

*17:11:16 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*to do meeting time and then hour reception afterwards*

*17:20:51 From Kathy Hsieh (she/her) to Everyone:*

*The other possibility is helping to create awareness or even attend open budget meetings that City Council offers the public to weigh in.*

*17:23:18 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Facilities and Equitable Development*

*17:23:30 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Cultural Investments Committee*

*17:23:37 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Public Art Advisory Committee*

*17:27:17 From Angela Castañeda to Everyone:*

*I’m interested in the space space 🙂*

*17:27:42 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*The Facilities and Equitable Development Committee advises the work of the Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) around issues of cultural space and its impact on equitable development. For the purposes of this committee, equitable development: • Calls on the strengths of the communities to invest in, build, and sustain wealth within communities. • Acknowledges 6% of cultural space represent communities of color and works to rectify the impacts of systemic disenfranchisement, racism, displacement, and lack of investment within policies and practices of land ownership and economic development, specifically for generations of BIPOC communities. • Makes reparative investments in communities that have been inequitably invested in. These investments prioritize solutions that are self-determined by communities, narrow wealth gaps for BIPOC communities, build community wealth, placekeeping, and reclaim space for those already displaced.*

*17:29:04 From Angela Castañeda to Everyone:*

*angela@ecolazos.com*

*17:29:29 From Allie Lee to Everyone:*

*Thanks, Angela! I'll connect you with FED Chair Ricky Graboski*

*17:29:56 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*https://nwfilmforum.org/education/workshops/local-sightings-2023-reckless-spirits-open-script-read-in-person-only/*

*17:31:14 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Come visit us with some Salsa and Bachata dancing, and see some cool shows. Seattle Latin Festival happening at the Seatac Hilton, https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99305153250?pwd=SUxreHl0cHg5NUhHcXpzYjA5RzkwUT09*

*17:31:45 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Kayla next*

*17:32:00 From Kayla DeMonte to Everyone:*

*Gotta run but my org (Citizen U) is recruiting high school students from across the country to participate in our 2024 Youth Collaboratory program, focused on learning about, building, and circulating civic power for good. Applications due 9/17: https://citizenuniversity.us/programs/youth-collaboratory/apply/*

*17:32:01 From Kayla DeMonte to Everyone:*

*Bye all!*

*17:32:39 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Thank you all*

*17:33:36 From Vanessa Villalobos to Everyone:*

*Oops use this link for the Seattle Latin Dance Festival https://seattlelatindancefestival.com*

*17:35:03 From Jessica Reeves to Everyone:*

*Thank you everyone!*