

**MINUTES****Seattle Music Commission Meeting***Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 12:15 – 2:00 p.m.*

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 4050/4060

**Commissioners Present:** Jody McKinley (presiding), Adrian Burton, Wyking Garrett, Holly Hinton, Megan Jasper, Alex Kochan, Tim Lennon, Ben London, DeVon Manier, Tom Mara, John Roderick, Patty Isacson Sabee, Joan Sandler, Jon Stone, Reese Tanimura, Karen P. Thomas, Nadine Zgonc

**Commissioners Absent:** Ricardo Frazer, Nicole Jon Sievers, Hollis Wong-Wear, Marcus Womack

**SMC Staff Present:** Kate Becker, Mikhael Mei Williams, Julie Borden

**Call to Order:** The 34th meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Jody McKinley

**Public Comment:** Jordan Monez, programmer of Hot Spot for Friends of Waterfront—season is coming to a close but there are a few more weeks of activation;  
 Brian Chin, Common Tone Arts;  
 Michael Smith;  
 Scott Kovacs, Greater Seattle Choral Consortium—founded in 2010, there are over 150 independent choirs in Puget Sound area, 65-70 are members of consortium, October 8-10 for Seattle Sings Choral Festival at St. Mark’s Cathedral, no cost for admission, expecting 2,000-2,500; recent survey of US found that 28.5 million people regularly participate in a choral group

**Approval of Minutes:** Unanimous Approval of 6/17/2015 Minutes as written

**Friends of the Waterfront (Heidi Hughes)**

- Waterfront has been and is a place of commerce, community, culture, and connection to the rest of the world
- Waterfront has changed quite a bit in the last 150 years, significantly with the original sea wall and viaduct
- Now is an opportunity to reimagine and reconnect the city to the waterfront—26 blocks
- Leveraging several different funding sources
- Public input has driven the park design
- The design is about 65% complete
- Includes places to stroll, interact with water, picnic, gather with friends/family, listen to music
- Polling has shown that people in Seattle want a waterfront park—87% say they are likely to visit, 83% support a public waterfront park, 78% are paying attention to plans
- Waterfront will

- Have beautiful views of the Olympics
- connect with Pike Place Market
- green spaces
- transportation links
- expanded aquarium
- connect to neighborhoods and downtown
- connect to water
- easily accessible to everyone
- environmental features (marine habitat, storm water filtration, etc.)
- gathering and performance spaces
  - has been some initial concern about event space from existing neighbors
  - as the time is right, Music Commission advocacy of event/performance spaces will be helpful as counterpoint to concerns
  - Pier 48 is most likely area for performance/event spaces
- Friends of the Waterfront is an independent non-profit formed to provide leadership, fundraising, and stewardship
  - Waterfront Space is a “showroom” where public can interact with waterfront plans and hold events
  - Have an ambassador program of young professionals
  - Waterfront Storefront Initiative will envision use for space between waterfront and Pike Place, with an emphasis on supporting local small businesses
  - Urban Parks Activation Partnership – already successful in Occidental and Westlake
- Waterfront activation pilots
  - Promenade—over summer had ping pong tables, shuffle boards, places to sit, umbrellas, restrooms
  - Hot Spot—stage for performance and event activation; have funding to continue next two years
- Q&A
  - Would like to see useable performance spaces that aren’t cost-prohibitive for producing medium-larger concerts—being considered as part of flexible space
  - How do you make sure that if there are overages or complications that music does not become relegated to lesser importance? That is role of Friends of Waterfront, to have long-term vision and advocate.
  - Who will be programmers and decision-makers for operations? That is TBD. Friends has a role but expect that there will be other partners and some entity will become official operator.

### **Introduce/Welcome New Commissioners**

- Tim Lennon, Executive Director of Vera Project, formerly with Office of Arts and Culture
- Reese Tanimura, Program Director of Rain City Rock Camp for Girls, also a music teacher, and director of all female swing band the Mood Swings

### **July-December 2015 Work Plan**

- Unanimous approval of July-December 2015 Work Plan

### **Committee Updates and Discussions**

#### **Executive Committee**

- 2016 Work Plan – Identified Issues:

- Preservation of and advocacy for opportunity for live music and musicians as Seattle grows and changes
- Greater focus on music business
- Committee Structure/Reorganization
  - Changing name of Policy + Communications committee to Advocacy + Economic Development
    - Has been little work on policy; communications is more a function of the Office of Film + Music
    - Expected projects/work will include advocating for musicians, working on affordability, busking, more support to business, waterfront, Levitt Pavilion, nightlife
    - Unanimous approval of name change to Advocacy + Economic Development Committee
    - Currently there are many more committee members serving on Youth + Community Committee; Commissioners are encouraged to consider if would like to switch so participation is more balanced between the two committees
- Will also continue to work on succession planning

### **Youth + Community Committee**

- Career Day
  - Overall feeling is that Career Day is ready to grow
  - Thinking about expanding content, methodologies of connecting content to participants, outreach and access
  - Have two tentative dates for March that are being explored
  - Made good connection with SPS to partner in planning
- Community Outreach
  - Had some success with community outreach
  - Will continue and are developing plans
  - Interest in looking more closely at communities in north end as it hasn't received much attention – Lake City/Northgate/Greenwood
  - Also looking at Southwest/Delridge and Beacon Hill/Central District areas
  - Tentatively planning for 3 outreach events and will ask each commissioner to commit to at least one
  - Interest in finding ways to partner with community-produced events, including process for community to request commissioner participation (and reporting back)

### **Policy + Communication Committee**

- Musicians Priority Load Zones
  - Have interest from additional venues that want MPLZ—Vera Project/KEXP (Seattle Center), Central Saloon/J&M Tavern (Pioneer Square), Nectar Lounge (Fremont)
  - Next steps include working out final approvals and logistics, including funding source
  - Expect to be in place by end of year
  - MPLZ has received international attention— routinely highlighted as a great policy example in conferences and around building a “Music City”

### **Economic Impact Report – Fair Trade Musicians Association**

- Final report expected to be published within next 30 days
- Problems similar to other cities—pay is low, rent is high, lack of rehearsal space
- Estimate is \$1.8 billion dollars in economic output from music industry
- Average income of working musician is \$21,000 (compare to Seattle's median income of \$65,000)

- Report will help with FTMA’s work on issues including admission tax and blackout dates
- See draft of Executive Summary, attached

**KEXP New Home**

- Tabling presentation to next meeting
- Making excellent progress on capital campaign
- Move in second week of November, expecting first broadcast to be December 2
- Activation/opening of space expected to be in April around National Record Day

**OFM Updates**

- Levitt Pavilion—City had decided there was no appropriate City park that could handle the noise, activity, people, but new Director of Parks has some renewed interest; King County Parks is interested, especially for White Center
- Kate will send a written update of other items of interest

**Meeting Adjourned 2:01pm**

**Future Music Commission Regular Meetings:**

- **Wednesday, November 18, 2015**
- **Wednesday, January 20, 2016 (2016 Work Plan Meeting)**
- **Wednesday, April 20, 2016**
- **Wednesday, June 15, 2016**
- **Wednesday, September 21, 2016**
- **Wednesday, November 16, 2016**