

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 19, 2018 12:15 – 2:00 p.m.

Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commission Room L280

Commissioners Present:

Reese Tanimura (Chair), Jen Czeisler, Meli Darby, Sue Ennis, Jerry Everard, Catherine Harris-White, Joleen Hughes, Ben Hunter, Tony Kiewel, Tim Lennon, Sharlese Metcalf, Nate Omdal, Daniel Pak, Ben Secord, Nicole Jon Sievers, Nadine Zgonc

Commissioners Absent:

John Roderick, Gyasi Ross

SMC Staff Present:

Kate Becker, Scott Plusquellec, Alex Rose

Call to Order:

The fourth meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Reese Tanimura

Public Comment:

None

Regular Commission Business

Welcome new Commissioner Nate Omdal

Bio: Bassist, composer, and producer [Nate Omdal](#) is one of Seattle's leading musical innovators, and his production work can be seen and heard all over the city of Seattle. Nate has provided arrangements or worked as musical director for The Seattle International Film Festival, million-dollar fundraisers (*Celebrate Swedish 2014*), prestigious winery events (*Chateau Ste. Michelle Riesling Roundup*), as well as the Seattle Art Museum and Bumbershoot. In 2010, Omdal began a musical partnership with MC/producer Spekulation that received critical praise (*Dave Segal, The Stranger*). In 2016, Nate began an apprenticeship with Hollywood composer Ron Jones (*Family Guy, Star Trek: The Next Generation*).

For several years, Omdal has been an active advocate for musicians' rights. In 2014, he worked as a consultant with the Seattle Mayor's Office, Dept. of Transportation and the Office of Film + Music to create a pilot program to introduce musicians' loading zones in four of Seattle's busiest nightlife districts.

Omdal earned a Bachelor of Music from Cornish College of the Arts. He has been financially supported by Jack Straw, 4Culture, and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture. Currently Nate is serving on the Directors' Board of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 76-493 and works as a contractor for SkyMuse Studios.

Minutes from June 20 approved

Showbox / Belltown / Cultural Space Updates

Showbox

- City Council created a 10-month temporary expansion of the Pike Place Market Historic District to include the Showbox
- Historic Seattle has submitted an application to the historic preservation board. The developers (Onni Group) have also submitted a landmark designation application.
 - Landmark designation doesn't protect the use of the site, only the building itself
- Property owner Roger Forbes has sued the City for \$40M; the lawsuit has changed the dynamic of communication with the City about the Showbox.
- Those interested in saving the Showbox would have to find a solution that addresses the landlord's use of the space
- City Council public hearing this afternoon; performances from 4-8PM
- Mayor's Office has formed an interdepartmental team to evaluate all available options (DON, SDCI, OFM, Historic Preservation, ARTS). Sara Maxana, Mayor's Office lead on this, has asked the **Music Commission to serve as a convener to help review the options.**

Belltown: Bad Animals/Studio X

- Bad Animals owns the property and they sold it; Skanska is developing a project there
- Jerry let them know that Belltown is losing music infrastructure
- Skanska and a few Music Commissioners met to brainstorm music offerings in new development
- Project is moving forward, and they are reserving 1500-3000 sq ft for a music-related use
- Directly above the space will be family housing
- Skanska likes Chihuly Garden & Glass, KEXP Gathering Space, recent Sellen building's multipurpose space (including a platform to be used as a DJ booth; installation of several Lance Mercer photos from grunge era)
- Skanska will not be operating the space, looking for **any leads from the Music Commission for someone who can operate the space on a low-rate lease**
- Perhaps this **could be used as a template for the Music Commission to present to other developers,** communities to address what is being displaced/lost due to new development
- **Taskforce volunteers: Sue, Nate, Jen, Kate**

Belltown: 2nd Ave block (Crocodile/Mama's/Shorty's)

- Development was stopped through a landmark action
- Now, 18 mo - 2 years later, the landmark designation has been removed
- Property owners on that block (NOT including the Crocodile) are looking to sell
- Croc lease is coming up in the next year; new rent will likely be very high

Hillman City/Columbia City

- Hillman City/Columbia City Arts & Cultural District designation; \$50,000 toolkit
- How can the community leverage that designation to protect (and acquire) properties that could be used as arts/culture buildings (esp. in Hillman City, which is relatively under the radar)
- Music venues in Columbia City feeling threatened

- Black & Tan Hall received a grant from the Equitable Development Initiative (most of the grant will go toward getting a new sprinkler system); they are working on purchasing the building in the next 6-9 months.

Arena Redevelopment

- Special Council Committee passed the Arena agreements
- OVG has been meeting with Seattle Center resident orgs; 30+ cultural organizations on Seattle Center campus will endure 2 years of construction (300 trucks/day during excavation)

How does SMC fit into the picture?

- Is there a way to get involved earlier in SDCI permitting process?
 - Can they alert SMC as to whether a music business is threatened?
 - Jessica McHegg – Arts Liaison in SDCI – involve her in the Bad Animals taskforce conversation?
- Consider the response to the Showbox compared to other cultural spaces threatened by development elsewhere in town. How can SMC leverage the momentum that’s been built around the Showbox and direct resources and advocacy to other cultural spaces?

City of Music Vision & 2019 Priorities

- Evaluation document was last updated in 2016
- Commission divided into 4 small groups to evaluate progress on City of Music Vision and discuss 2019 priorities
- Several follow up items and additions below
- Group 1 takeaways (Jen, Cat, Meli, Kate, public attendee Elise from Fremont Abbey):
 - Professional opportunities for musicians – red
 - Livability for musicians – red
 - Creating community among musicians – room for improvement
 - Musician in all of us – further define what this looks like
 - Music festivals for all – keep as priority, include support for DIY music festivals
 - City of Music Business – all red
 - Facilities – code red
 - Airport program – good visibility, keep as priority
 - Remove ‘not for profit’ business stipulation
 - Identify a “music ambassador” to other cities; other cities do this (Denver, L.A., Austin)
 - High alert: creating job opportunities in Seattle
 - High priority: tech sector integration
 - Increase mentoring opportunities (esp. Career Day, Upstream, Recording Academy...PNW chapter has funding to support music orgs)
 - TO ADD: sexual assault or community respect, common language (see Fair Trade Music re standardizing language across music venues)
- Group 2 takeaways (Tim, Nate, Alex, public attendee Ramsey from OED):
 - Professional development – use music resource directory, resource fair to for artist-service provider matchmaking
 - Livability for artists, sustainability for facilities and venues

- Creating community – take a diversity, equity, inclusion focus
- Festivals – multinationals vs neighborhood/community/local festivals; how to make it easier for communities to produce festivals (special events cost recovery)
- Job Opportunities – lots of programs that target youth but what about older workers?
- Chamber partnership? What has happened in this arena, how to move this forward?
- Supporting the sector – how to ensure accurate data? Esp. tracking live music income/admissions
- Sue offers her connections to organizers of Magnolia Fest
- Group 3 (Nicole, Pak, Gabriel, Ben, Sue, Reese)
 - Evolve the narrative of what culture is to this city
 - Creative Advantage going great
 - Music as a tool for healing; Rhapsody uses music as a tool for connecting to personal cultural background
 - Nurture pathways for people to become professional musicians (via higher ed)
 - Do we have data that tell us how to evaluate higher ed?
 - House concerts/salon environment – how to create a funding source to support house concert production (chair rentals, etc.), get people to connect to community through music
 - Encourage neighbors to offer free rent to a musician to help them launch/establish a base in Seattle (provide toolkits through a website)
- Group 4 (Joleen, Tony, Nadine, Jerry)
 - Career Day appears a lot in this document
 - Redefine what Career Day looks like
 - Reignite roadshows, reinvigorate at community level
 - Experience the City of Music program
 - SPF30 as a catapult to engage in conversations
 - Music activations in communities (farmers markets, street fairs)
 - Corporations with large campuses
 - Gigs4U is doing great; how can we further partner and learn from them; who else can we partner with?
 - How can SMC be an advocate for music venues/businesses in the face of coming URM restrictions/legislation?

Committee Updates

- **Executive**
 - Budget – in good shape; Executive Committee will oversee complete expenditure of 2018 budget
 - SMC RSJI training – need to decide what can be done this year
 - Commissioner transitions – Mayor’s Office reviewing three candidates
- **Advocacy + Economic Development**
 - Experience the City of Music program expansion – successful pilot this summer with Visit Seattle; pitch deck in development to invite further partnerships
 - Music resource directory – draft completed; next step is detailed review
 - 2019 racial equity training – need to get a contract completed by end of October

- **Youth + Community**

- Roundtable/open mic – set for Oct 19 at KEXP and The Vera Project
- Videos – nearly finalized
- Local music playlists – Sharlese and OFM communications working together on this

Misc. Announcements & Updates

- Music Modernization Act passed yesterday. No laws of this nature have been passed in 109 years. Sirius Radio was a difficult roadblock; artists affiliated with Sirius took a stand against the company. The act creates a centralized database and payment system for streaming mechanical royalties (alleviates the expectation for artists, publishing companies, record labels to do extra legwork).
- Kevin Sur/Artist Home interest in supporting (even producing or helping to produce) City of Music Career Day 2019
- ASSET (A Seattle Special Events Team) is reconvening – organizing around special events costs, minimum policing requirements
- Bruce Skinner from WESTAF will present at near future SMC meeting
- Music Safety Summit is Oct 11; topics include mass casualty prevention planning, sexual assault prevention and intervention, contamination of recreational drug supply; **Kate will follow up with invitation**
- Oct 22, 5-8 PM SMC gathering at Nicole’s house
 - Family and partners invited
 - **Alex will send out the invitation**
- Gigs4U – competing for a Business Impact NW award
- Community Arts Create is hiring a Co-director
- NW Folklife is hiring 2 positions

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Future Music Commission Regular Meetings:

November 14