

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Zoom Conference

Commissioners Present: Reese Tanimura (chair), Sharlese Metcalf (Vice Chair), Joleen Hughes, Kitty Wu, Nate Omdal, Terry Morgan, Daniel Pak, Ben Hunter, Sue Ennis

Commissioners Absent: Jerry Everard, Ben Secord, Paula Madrigal

City Staff Present: Tina Inay, Chris Swenson, Ashraf Hasham, Meli Darby, Scott Plusquellec, Alex Rose

Guests: Jane Zalutsky (Seattle Center Foundation)

Call to Order: The was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Reese Tanimura.

Public Comment: N/A

Welcome – Reese Tanimura

- We acknowledge that we gather, work, and play on indigenous land, the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people - specifically the Duwamish Tribe. Last week got to spend some time with Cecile Hansen, chairwoman of the Duwamish Tribe.
- Significant news yesterday of actual accountability (Chauvin trial), at the same time police violence against Black people continues.
- Build racial equity into recovery work!

Connecting & Celebrating: 1-on-1 check ins in breakout rooms

- All in attendance met for one-on-one conversations to continue building connections.

Regular Commission Business – All

- Review Agenda
- Approval of March 17, 2021 SMC Meeting Minutes:
 - Sue motioned to approve, Terry seconded, all approved (no oppose, no abstain). March 17 minutes approved.

Office of Film + Music Updates

- Chris: some of these changes announced at Execs mtg last week
- Chris: I have ended my temporary assignment as Acting Director of OFM, returning to previous role and focused as Film Program Lead
 - Have loved working with you all!

- Tina: shoutout to Chris for doing a yeoman's job!
- Tina will take on Acting Director role of OFM/Creative Industries, until Director is hired
 - Tina: along with my OED Deputy Director work, I've been learning about how important this creative sector work is in the recovery. Hoping you all will help, lend your subject matter expertise and creativity to help our community recover
 - Chris: these transitions are intended to support the City's recovery work
- Scott Plusquellec remains as Nightlife advocate, moving from OFM to OED's Small Business Development team
 - Intended to provide more focus and opportunities for funding and other initiatives
- Meghan Sebold, who has been staff lead for A+ED Committee, has been reassigned to Mayor's Recovery team
 - Chris, Alex, Tina working on what staffing of A+ED will look like
 - Meghan brings her experience and collaboration with all of you to that recovery work – tie ins of creative industries into recovery
- Meli: in this transition of Chris moving to focus on film, Meli will continue with Special Events work as Special Events lead
 - Reese: Special Events Committee has been talking about reopening, safety/security, want to make sure SMC is supporting that convo! (Meli: yes! Will keep you looped in)
 - Meli: CHAMP ([COVID-19 Health & Action Management Plan](#)) toolkit developed to guide event producers through COVID protocol
 - Reese: heard back from Gov's office working on an update to performing arts guidelines right now
 - Meli: also! [Festivals, Special Events, Parade guidance](#) just released by Inslee's office. Would love to get feedback and questions from y'all's perspective on how these new guidelines affect your events/activations.
 - For consideration of scale, at 76 square feet per person, if applied to CHBP main stage area that drops capacity from 3000 to 191 people.
- Scott: still intending to support the Commission and maintain the connection with you all and in the A+ED committee
- Scott: SVOG not yet open...still.

Committee Updates & Recommitting to Committee Work Plans

Reese: Work planning happened last year in the context of lots of change and unforeseen hurdles. Wanted to have a chance for the committees to talk about continuing to clarify priorities.

Advocacy + Economic Development Committee

- Nate: want to identify and support job training program re Climate Pledge Arena. Was hoping Becca Beatty from IATSE would be able to join today – they have a number of opportunities that they didn't have 18 months ago. Certain contracts haven't been renewed with massive providers. Lots of stage and sound tech work will be opening up for the first time in decades – especially at Climate Pledge Arena and T-Mobile Park.
 - There will be lots of jobs for young ppl pushing carts around – a foot in the door of the industry
- Reese: how do artists come back online in a way that's more protected, wages are paid more fairly?

- Joleen: along with wanting musicians to have living wages – I’m always a “flow thru” person – need to incentivize venues, everyone’s struggling. Need to create the ecosystem (venues especially) dealing with reopening as well. Can’t give living wages to musicians if the places that hire musicians don’t have the revenue.
- Scott: echoing that. In convo with venues, fear that we’ve lost a lot of sound/lighting techs who have had to pivot to other better paying jobs with benefits.
- Nate: lots of emphasis right now that these jobs used to go thru other contractors/hiring halls that didn’t prioritize equity – now have an opportunity to address that thru more local employers. Thousands and thousands of new jobs for hundreds and hundreds of events.
- Alex connect Tina and Nate to regarding jobs for youth.
- Come back to: *Safety in the Music Scene – preparing venue/production workers for the ‘Great Reunion’*

Youth + Community Committee

- Pak: New members and guests showing up from Hugo House, Youth Speaks, Town Hall, KUOW Radioactive, even the Seattle Kraken – expanding outside of just music, seems like we always have more ground to cover than we have time in the meetings!
- [Y+C Miro board](#) has been helpful
- Virtual City of Music Career Day in planning phase – Alex leading
 - Building toward massive creative Career Day (combined disciplines)
- Kyle Boyd, Youth & Community Development with Seattle Kraken
 - Want to continue to ask directly, how are you supporting arts & culture
 - Alex: Kyle (Kraken) is also inspired by some work out in Toronto, where they're connecting young folks to creative roles (e.g. photography, videography) within sports
- Cultural education – talking with SPS about further integrating into curriculum
- Increasing youth voice
- Paula pushed for continuing digital equity work
- Career Day Road Shows – Ben Hunter will lead!
 - Ben: had a mtg with Elisheba Johnson and Lara Davis about how Road Shows started
 - I teach a lecture on protest music for youth around the city. I want this road show to not just show what roles people play in the music industry, but also how to engage music in a way that’s more social and contributes to a larger economy
- Paula: in a similar vein to Career Day, Edmonds College recently invited me to speak – professionals of color connecting with young creatives of color
- Pak: at a recent meeting Arista from FEEST asked what is Y+C’s big picture theory of change
- Pak: had a recent conversation with Dr. James Gore – going to be sharing KSS space
 - Getting young ppl into the mindset of entrepreneurship!
- Friends of the Waterfront has budgeted for a show on the Waterfront – Totem Star wants to give youth leadership in producing this
- Reese: for youth coming into the industry at this time when things are rocky, we have the opportunity to set the tone. Joleen’s talked about professional development opportunities for young folks (as well as established creative professionals).

Guest: Jane Zalutsky, Seattle Center Foundation – Memorial Stadium

- Seattle Public Schools and City of Seattle have been trying for decades to figure out how to renovate, update Memorial Stadium
- The facility is now in a state of extreme disrepair – SPS students can't use the locker rooms, can't drink the water
- Superintendent Juneau and Mayor Durkan's upcoming transitions out of their roles has brought recent momentum to a halt
- Seattle Center Foundation approached the school board to have a direct conversation
- Since beginning of year Foundation has been working to develop a coalition to bring community members into the fold to envision a future for Memorial Stadium
 - To help convince school board, put Memorial Stadium on BTA levy (Building Technology and Athletics) to go to voters in February
 - Last time BTA was passed it was \$750M
- School Board Director Zachary DeWolf (District V) has said it's completely disrespectful to students to expect them to use this facility
- Important to make it a multi-use facility, not just for sports
- Want schools on S side and N side to come together, students at the center
- Screen share: Jane shared an illustrated rendering to show how stadium can open itself up to the center of Seattle Center
- Terry: is there parking envisioned under the stadium?
 - Parking underneath is part of the Century 21 Master Plan
 - This plan doesn't have that, given the cost – would be ideal if there is additional funding that comes thru for that
 - Ties to downtown recovery, economic recovery
- Jane: we are at the moment! We have to make this work
- Reese: we know that Arena is for national acts. Memorial Stadium has been a Bumbershoot stage, would provide more opportunities for local and up-and-coming artists.
- Nate: have you encountered any political adversaries or pushback?
 - No – everyone we've talked with seems to recognize what an asset this can be, and what bad shape it's in currently
 - Can be leveraged for additional \$\$
- Sue: trying to envision what the project could potentially cost, and an idea of the capacity
 - Timeline: vote is in Feb. Don't want to presuppose anything, but usually Seattle voters are supportive of SPS levies
 - Having this on the levy might broaden the universe of supporters for the overall levy
 - They recognize that we can bring a broad coalition representing music, arts, culture, Seattle Center orgs, sports
 - Question of cost really depends on what is included on programmatic and operational standpoint
 - 2026 World Cup can help drive this forward faster (stadium could be used as a practice facility for World Cup)
- Sue: what would be helpful from this group? An endorsement?
 - Definitely, a formal endorsement would be helpful at the right time
 - And given your connections with SPS – we have connections with the Board Members – but they want to know what students want
 - BIPOC youth, and Black boys in particular

- Pak [CHAT]: And one of the keys to new partnerships is through The Creative Advantage! The work of Audrey Querns and Tina LaPadula have been critical to our new partnerships. Featuring artists at the Naramore Art Show and at SPS professional development has been instrumental too. Via Gail Sehlhorst.
 - Reese [CHAT]: I have connected with team Tina/Ashraf/Audrey/Gail on getting connected with Jane too 😊
 - Looking at a vote in Nov. to finalize what is on the levy
- Nate: have you spoken with the Sports Commission?
 - Maya Beckstrom, a senior executive at Sounders
 - Kraken are great and what they're going to do for Seattle Center, but want to make sure arts & culture doesn't get overshadowed by the big splash of the Arena
 - Nate would love to follow up with several questions – including Ad Tax!
- Sharlese [CHAT]: When I was in summer marching band, we used to practice at Memorial Stadium. (glockenspiel!)
- Reese [CHAT]: This could be a fantastic opportunity for developing SPS/community partnership in Creative Industries career connected learning/internships
- Kitty [CHAT]: My sons played on Memorial Stadium Field and I worked on that Bumbershoot stage for 11 years. It's such great news that it's going to get attention and I am happy to be on this coalition.
- Reese: Thank you, Jane – let's stay in touch on this!

Next Steps & Misc. Announcements

- Reese working on getting time with CM Morales to ask about nominations

Meeting adjourned at 1:33