

**MINUTES**

**Seattle Music Commission Meeting**

*Wed, September 20, 2023, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.*

HYBRID Virtual/In-Person

**Commissioners Present:**

Kitty Wu, Chair, Jason Clackley, Vice Chair, Adra Boo, Nick Vaerewyck, Keola Kama, Nick Turner, Kelli Faryar, Paula Madrigal, Casey Carter, Denise Burnside, Eric Lilavois, Nate Omdal

**Commissioners Absent:**

Jessica Toon, Andrew Joselyn, Anne O’Dowd, Terry Morgan, Jovino Santos Neto, Andrea Friedman, Shannon Welles, Juluis Caesar Robinson, Bunnie Moore

**SMC Staff Present:**

Scott Plusquellec, OED

**Guests:**

Alicia Teel, OED Deputy Director; Theresa Kuo, Kinetic West; Seven Sky

**Call to Order:**

The ORDINAL meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Chair Kitty Wu, with a land acknowledgement.

**Public Comment:**

- No Public Comments

**DAP Update:**

Alicia Teel, Deputy Director for Office of Economic Development, gave an update on the Downtown Activation Plan. See Presentation Deck here:

DAP launched in June 2023

- Citywide plan,
- Led by OED but multiple agencies involved

3 items in particular importance

- Over 19 million tourists and residents have returned downtown in Summer 2023
- Seeing more people coming back into work 2-3 days per week
- Launching the Liberty project for BIPOC small business,

Other notable achievements:

- Seattle Restored program has been big success
- Reopening City Hall park,
- Monuments exhibit – need this to be a long term project

- Improving lighting – City Light has done some assessment on C/ID and working on repairs, to be expanded to other neighborhoods.
- Council reinstated Downtown BIA
- Artists’ residencies – OED has partnered for a building for downtown artists residencies
- Creative Economy Director James Miles onboard at OED

Space Needle ideas –

- Downtown as an Arts Culture Entertainment center – still in formative stage, doesn’t’ need to be coupled with streetcar. Know that was a concern
  - BIPOC Mercado
  - Makers Campus for experiential learning
  - Yearlong play
- Let Scott know if you want to receive the Good News Downtown newsletter

Q/A:

What is the budget for this and where is the money coming from?

- This year just cobbled together from various places. Next year will be a specific line item.

Downtown Transportation –

- focused on things within the City’s control. Working with SDOT to creatively look at sidewalk and street activation,

Jason – support for small businesses

- storefront is temporary,
- look more at long term leases for culture places,
- need space for small venues,
- reduce barriers,

Is the city having conversations with planning?

- Yes, next year looking for budget next year for help with long term leases.

Nate – What are the obstacles to the Life at Night taskforce creation? How can commission help?

- Will let commissioners know through Scott when plans are in place.

**Debrief of presentation:**

Most important thing is not just activation for “restored” but make it sustainable. Can’t be just a year thing and then disappears.

Seemed like there was an emphasis on the big events, need some transparency on how these connect to small venues and events.

**Regular Commission Business:**

Commission acknowledged the departures and arrivals of commissioners.

- Thanks to Joleen and Sue for their service on the commission
- Introduced Kelli Faryar and Nick Turner, gave quick introductions of themselves.

Approval of July 17, 2023 minutes – Jason motioned, Andrea seconded, all in favor pending update.

**Film Commission Mixer:** Ask that Commissioners hold the nights of Oct 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for a Film Commissioner mixer. Details to come. Since we'll be working closely with them good to have a meet and greet first.

**Budget Advocacy Discussion:**

Nate gave an overview of budget advocacy – representing not just yourself but the organization and community behind you

- Get small 3 sentence statements from community members to back up your points.
- As budget season ramps up need to be prepared to make voices heard.
- Don't feel like it is a huge piece of work.
- Target the folks who will support you to get backing. Will make your load easier.
- Most effective meetings are not big ones, small meetings with focused informed people work the best.

Kitty – 3 different ways to talk to folks, emailing or calling, talking directly to council or doing direct statements at council meetings.

When budget comes out the Execs can create a working document to put ideas into to prioritize

- Want to make sure the Commission speaks with one voice.

These three items keep coming up for advocacy needs:

- Musician Stabilization
- Workforce Development
- Rebates for venues on taxes

Revisit Musician basic income idea.

**Adjourned 1:30**