



## **MINUTES**

### **Joint Commission Meeting**

#### **Seattle Arts Commission & Seattle Music Commission**

*Tuesday, November 13, 2019 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.*

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, Grand Hall

#### **SAC Commissioners Present:**

Priya Frank (Chair), Cassie Chinn, Chieko Phillips, Juan Alonso-Rodríguez, Cassie Chin, Dawn Chirwa, Steve Galatro, Ashraf Hasham, Jescelle Major, Quinton Morris, Sarah Wilke, Sharon Williams

#### **SMC Commissioners Present:**

Reese Tanimura (Chair), Jen Czeisler, Jerry Everard, Ben Hunter, Ben Secord, Meli Darby, Tim Lennon, Nate Omdal, Daniel Pak, Sharlese Metcalf

#### **Staff Present:**

Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Aline Moch Islas, Alex Rose, Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar, Erika Lindsay, Bobby Lee (OED), Chris Swenson (OFM), Julia Reed (MO), Dominique Stephens (MO)

#### **Guests:**

Mikhael Williams (Entercom), Kayla DeMonte (Citizen U), Andy Fife (Fife Consulting), Vivian Hua (Northwest Film Forum, phone), Amy Lillard (Washington Filmworks), Ben London, Beth Knox, Buzzy Cancilla, Holly Jacobson (Path with Art), Kevin Sur (Artist Home), Kitty Wu, Lacey Leavitt

#### **Call to Order:**

The third joint meeting of SAC and SMC was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Priya Frank

#### **Welcome**

#### **Public Comment**



- No public comment.

### **Minutes**

- SAC October Minutes – Sarah Wilke motioned to approve, Cassie Chinn seconded, all approved (no oppose, no abstain)
- SMC September Minutes – Tim Lennon motioned to approve, Nate Omdal seconded, all approved (no oppose, no abstain)

### **2020 Workplan Share Back**

Prior to the joint commission meeting on 11/13, the SAC, SMC, and industry partners participated in an all-day retreat. During the afternoon session they broke out into sector affinity groups (public arts, facilities & equitable development, cultural investments, advocacy & economic development, youth & community, film, and special events) to deep dive into the creative ecosystem research ARTS and OFM/OED spearheaded over the last two years and prioritize work. Each group was given the prompt to prioritize their work into the following categories: “immediately address for 2020,” “address in subsequent years,” and “address later due to no current framework.” Highlights from each group:

- Film Partners (Group Lead: Lacey Leavitt):
  - Currently there is confusion and fear in the local film industry around what is happening with the Office of Film + Music. There needs to be work on messaging what is happening in the process and what is being proposed.
  - Film permitting should take high priority over other city permitting needs
  - A film taskforce should be ordained
  - Market Seattle as a place to film to other regions
  - Support/hire local filmmakers/artists
  - Educate film across boundaries
  - Dedicated funding for the film industry
- Public Art Advisory Committee (Group Lead: Sharon Williams):
  - Broaden public art experience across various media – expand public art without losing visual art in the process
  - Look at who produces public art – panel selections, artist rosters, etc. Other offices need that support as well.
  - Pay artists to be on panels
  - Bring back Public Art bootcamps – increase access
  - Advocacy and investment for the independent artist. Many artists use their own money to fund their work
  - Provide a list of fabricators and make that accessible



- A strategy and vision for public art
- Support community-driven initiatives
  - Role of public art in cultural districts. For example, HCAACD is working with SDOT and OED
  - Work with Cultural Investments Committee to collaborate on some initiatives
- Advocacy + Economic Development Committee (Group Lead: Nate Omdal):
  - Preserve space for music – practice space, live/work space, non-profit and business space
  - Meet needs of small businesses and job providers
    - Education for small businesses to grow
  - Make an impact on the bottom line for artists (e.g., fund ORCA cards for musicians, expand parking options, mark vehicles for artists)
  - Create a job bank, expand and capitalize on employment opportunities
  - Incentivize local businesses to use local talent
  - Address property values – help venue owners pay their workers more instead of their landlords
  - Enforce labor rules in venues – create paper trails and bookkeeping practices
  - Advocate for teaching artists – teaching space is very valuable to workers and artists
- Events Partners (Group Lead: Andy Fife):
  - Plan to become very active in streamlining work for events
    - Needs grounding in cultural values and priorities for the city (does the city and its leadership, capacity, and funding prioritize culture, what aspects of culture does it want to see, and who will be stewarding/shepherding)
  - Integrate special events into commissions' work
    - Joint taskforce or some other structure
    - Make special events a formalized section of work
  - Restructure special events committee - make it more of a strategic body
  - Invest in an industry organization to advocate for this work (Maybe involve ASSET) – public/private partnership
  - Technology solution for permitting and a stronger database CRM
  - Build relationships with philanthropy and private partners
  - Need to work on: Values and priority setting. How are we nurturing the seeds of the creative economy/culture? What are we doing about the loss of space and the change of space usage? How are we embedding the value within community and unifying sectors, so we have a shared platform and shared language across the board?
- Cultural Investments Committee (Group Lead: Sam Kelly):



- Address immediately:
  - Relationship hubs as it relates to professional development (The NAAM Mixer in August was a great example of creating a safe space for POC to network and allowed underrepresented artists to free up and talk about their craft.)
  - Additional funding for allocations
- Subsequent workplan:
  - Reassess paid internships – consider people beyond youth who are entering the arts later in life
  - Change language about artists in a fair working perspective – artists as economic drivers
- No current framework:
  - Bridge artists with tech sector (funding artists, finding space, etc.) – needs a framework
  - Scale access to artistic space (what can we do in the off-hours of businesses, empty units, free space, etc.)
  - Job bank
- Youth + Community Committee (Group Lead: Daniel Pak):
  - Continue involvement of youth in youth advocacy work:
    - Work that's been done since FALL 2018: Held quarterly youth roundtables with local youth organization reps to paint a picture of what youth opportunities should look like in Seattle; to discuss the programming of City of Music Career Day; to curate a youth stage at the Seafair Family Fourth; to inform creative economy research; and to figure out to bring in as many identities as possible.
  - Stimulate innovative thinking to improve quality of life
  - Gig-focused job banks – exists but we haven't been using it – how do we spread the word?
  - A community board that highlights every opportunity, show, internship – figure out the best way young people find out about the news
    - Maybe an Instagram feed
    - Can someone at ARTS manage this?
  - Advocate for affordability and basic human rights
    - A place to live and practice art
    - A marketplace
    - Healthcare (esp. mental health)
    - Transportation



- Seattle should set an example as a city where the government partners with organizations to purchase 5 blocks of the city dedicated to artist practice space, affordable housing, healthcare facilities, etc.
- Facilities and Equitable Development Committee (Group Lead: Sarah Wilke):
  - Do work through a value-based lens – continue to support cultural space in the community with a race and social justice lens
  - Reconceptualize and expand what cultural space means (commercial realm, public space, parks, neighborhoods, etc.)
  - Transfer wealth back to the community, public benefit
  - Center marginalized voices not just in research and data gathering but in the recommendations that turn into action
  - Address immediately:
    - Cultural Space PDA - get work off the ground
    - Chamber of Culture arts/cultural districts report coming soon
    - Square Feet Seattle – bringing community bodies together for ideas. Tiny Cultural Spaces and Arts Districts are two ideas that have come out of this. Story Truck for mobile indigenous stories was the idea selected this year
  - Subsequent workplan:
    - Thread needle between other city departments that work with cultural spaces
    - Work with everyone in this room to find a common ground - everyone has spoken about issues that this committee touches
    - Youth career pathways in cultural space work
    - Bridge neighborhoods that feel disconnected. Who on the map are we missing? (Chamber of Culture will be relevant to this)
  - No current framework:
    - Cultural workspace, individual artist workspace – would like to partner with people in this room
    - We don't currently have a framework for "ghost government" but we want to keep considering this
- Co-Chairs: We have a lot of common themes across committees and partner groups on centering artists' needs in the city, and now we need to figure out how to do this work collectively and weave together efforts to build an inclusive foundation. One of the immediate things for us to do as advocates is to take this info out into the communities – it's dynamic, it's living and breathing, and it's not done. Our community needs to know what's going on for the work to be turned into action – we need more people to move the opportunities. Part of the dominant culture is to take info and move on – instead, let's honor indigenous practice and



center community so our results reflect the process. To those who participated in the all-day retreat today, thank you for investing a full day of your time.

### **Misc. Announcements**

- Next Meetings
  - SAC: 12/10 (T), King Street Station Panel Room
  - SMC: 2/19 (W), City Hall Boards and Commissions Room
- SMC is coordinating/offering a racial equity training for venue professionals in December. Currently there are 15 seats left. See/contact Alex Rose for more information.
- There will be a public share out and synopsis event for the Creative Economy work on 12/4 (W) 5-7:30pm at LHPAI. All are encouraged to come!

### **Adjourn**

*Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm*