



Seattle Film Commission

Meeting Minutes – Monday, October 23, 2023, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

City Hall, Boards & Commissions Room

Commissioners: Beth Barrett, Lowell Deo, Champ Ensminger, Mark Freid, Budi Mulyo, Kat Ogden, Melissa Purcell, Anthony Tackett, Michael Huang, Tom Florino

Not Present: Laura Jean Cronin

Staffed by Office of Economic Development: Chris Swenson, Taylor Durand-Scaggs

Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 10/23/2023 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.

Roll Call

- Quorum confirmed

Public Comment

- Kim Lowe, SAG AFTRA Seattle Local – States her presence, no additional comment

General Order of Business

- Review and approval 9/25/23 meeting minutes
 - Unanimous vote to approve
- Review of past commitments and events
 - *Seattle Film Commission + Music Commission Meet and Greet – October 18, 2023*
 - Commissioners found the meeting inspiring and saw lots of potential for opportunities between the two commissions to collectively move forward initiatives to benefit the local Creative Economy
 - Recommend a more concrete ongoing line of communication between the commissions so they can be up to speed and align initiatives where possible. This could happen at the Executive Committee level of both commissions
 - The Music Commission said they were looking to the Film Commission to help advise on how to make the music industry more of an economic driver Music Commission looking to the Film Commission to see how they can make music more of an economic development industry / job, etc.
 - *Seattle Queer Film Festival*
 - Laura Jean Cronin and Leo Dowell represented the Film Commission at the Seattle Queer Film Festival Opening Night festivities
 - Came away with several take aways / request from the LGBTQ filmmaking community
 - Integrate a focus on LGBTQI filmmakers into the Film Commission work.
 - Three Dollar Bill Cinema is becoming more visible on a national level, and



- partnering with the Film Commission to amplify Seattle as a queer friendly filmmaking city would be beneficial
- Recommendations to convene local BIPOC and LGBTQ Filmmakers and Film Festivals
- Generate a directory of local avenues for potential film funding / financial support
- Need a consistent list of City contacts, because turnover seems to be high
- Recommend a City-sponsored base camp / parking system for productions. Referenced the Musician Priority Load Zones program as a model
- Preview of upcoming commitments and events
 - *2023 Film Summit – Nov 11-12, 2023*
 - Film Commission will host a mixer type event, not a panel
 - Commission is invited and everyone will have passes to the entire weekend
 - *Seattle Film + Music Commission annual meeting – Wednesday, November 15, 2023*
 - Required by ordinance for the Commissions to meet annually
 - Will dive into priority / action items of both commissions and see where they align; can include assignment of commissioners to the other Commission's priority committees
 - The Film Commission would prefer this meeting be in person with a hybrid option
 - *2024 City of Seattle Creative Economy Career Day – February 9, 2024*
 - Collateral for this meeting coming to the commission between now and the next meeting
 - *2024 AFCl - March 2024*
 - Event will take place in L.A. in March of 2024 and is a 2-3 day event
 - Goal of this event is to network and find ways to attract business to the region
 - Amazon has a sponsorship relationship with AFCl, so they can influence panel / panel content, and they'd like to explore hosting a panel of new / emerging / re-emerging locations with a focus on selling Seattle (not the state)
 - Michael Huang/Kat Ogden, Amy Lillard and CM Nelson would ideally be in attendance and on the panel. OED is exploring budget options for others to attend
 - The Film Commission or Washington Filmworks (preferred) should explore the options for officially joining AFCl, and taking the commissioner certification course
- *Tabled for discussion: Film Commissioner Retreat*

Committee and workgroup updates

- *Economic and Workforce Development (Tom Florino)*
 - AFCl – See Notes above



- Amazon has been working on a partnership with the Cherokee Nation to create film industry workforce development opportunities on tribal land. This includes building a volume wall, creating a film school pipeline, and language preservation programs
 - There is an opportunity here to create a similar program with tribes in the Seattle area, as well as connect this with other local BIPOC communities
 - Members of the Cherokee Nation can come speak locally about the program to gain support and generate ideas
 - Want to ensure all underserved communities are prioritized as this specific indigenous peoples work moves forward

- *Policy (Mark Fried)*
 - The committee will receive survey data from OED and Washington Filmworks to assess the hurdles of filmmaking locally
 - One of the main priorities of the committee is to help create consistency between regional authorities when it comes to permitting
 - The committee would like to create better partnerships with the Duwamish and other tribal lands within the City of Seattle for workforce development, marketing branding, and land use partnerships for filmmakers
 - The Film Commission needs to be proactive about AI Policy in Seattle
 - Budi will put together a AI presentation for the SFC to present at the November meeting
 - Commissioner Champ Ensminger recommends find ways to interface with Adobe since they have a lot of AI driven post-production products that have implications for the future of the industry

- *Marketing, Branding and Initiatives (Beth Barrett)*
 - Presented marketing and branding document to the group that listed priorities has 5 priority recommendations
 - Branding the SFC and the Film Office
 - Workplan Creation
 - Establish Meet the Commission series of events to connect with the community
 - Creating Production Working Identification Packages – to help make filmmakers more visible to the public when they are out in the field
 - External Communications and Social Media presence
 - There recommendations moved forward to OED (*see attached Recommendations doc*)

- *Working Group: SIFF Cinerama public benefits with Seattle Arts Commission (Kat Ogden)*
 - Michael and Kat have been convening with these groups and hammered out a short and long-term ideas document. Recommendations have been submitted to OED and CM and MO. Items will be reduced further before submitting to SIFF

Office of Economic Development

- City production office space @ KCTS building (OED)
 - OED gathering information and creating focus group is one of the next steps



Seattle Office of Economic Development

- SPR Parks Drone Use Pilot has started, allowing film production to use drones in parks for the first time
 - Commission supports the program; Asks to inform key location and production personnel
- City supplemental 2024 budget:
 - Workforce Development plan is still in the budget; Councilmember Nelson has proposed \$10,000 ongoing budget each for the Film and Music Commissions
 - City Council public comment this Friday at 10am
 - Chair recommends writing letter of support from the Film Commission, and Commissioners who can attend in person should
- Workforce Development Opportunity
 - Advise Commissioners to read and respond to opportunity in email from Creative Economy Manager James Miles

Upcoming Presentations

- King County Creative Presentation by Kate Becker at November Meeting
- AI / Emerging tech presentation by Commissioner Budi Mulyo at November meeting

Additional Items

- Commissioner contact information shared internally with Commissioners

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn – Unanimous vote to approve