



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 9th, 2018

Seattle City Hall, Room L280

Nametags Needed: Quinton Morris, Nilofer Rajpurkar, Chieko Phillips, Ashraf Hasham

Commissioners present: Jescelle Major, Terri Hiroshima, Mari Horita, Nilofer Rajpurkar, Dawn Chirwa, Quinton Morris, Vivian Phillips, Steve Galatro, Ashraf Hasham, Cassie Chinn, Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Jonathan Cunningham(via phone)

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Ruri Yampolsky, Irene Gomez, and Rick Reyes

Excused Absences: Sharon Williams

Guests: Jorge Enrique Gonzalez Pacheco, Evan Philip, Julia Reed

Call to Order

Terri Hiroshima called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on Indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people.

Public Comment: No Comments

Festál Cultural Festivals (Julia Reed)

Julia is in attendance from the Mayor's Office to speak about a Cultural Festivals and Special Events Funding Review project coming up in the next few months. This process will look at what our values are around cultural festivals returning to questions around why we provide festivals, what do they contribute, and are they equitable. This process will also look at where money comes from and who it goes to.

QUESTIONS:

- The commission are curious about what festivals the Period of Maximum Constraint will affect. Julia responds that traffic will be most affected. Calandra will send out the basic information to the commission coming from each department.
- The commission states the importance of seeing baseline attendance numbers in comparison to attendance after these funding changes and period of maximum constraint to see the impacts moving forward on festivals.
- The commission asks what the most important things are that Julia wants the commission to remember
 - o The goal of this review is to have a healthier and more sustainable festival and special events environment in the city
 - o As we start this values-based conversation, what are the values that cultural festivals and events bring to the city?



- The commission mentions the importance of considerations of Seattle Center employees and businesses in this review and collaborations between departments on things like job readiness for union jobs in festivals and ensuring equitable access for POC and reimagining how these developments can expand how we think about public art.

Deaccession (Ruri Yampolsky)

Ruri explains the deaccession process which involves the removal of collection pieces for various purposes. This also includes the process of how we remove artworks. The artwork being presented to the commission, *Hydraulis*, is being removed due to direction from developers of the new Key Arena looking for a new direction for the future of art in the area and the incompatibility with new constructions.

QUESTIONS:

- The commission asks about what will happen to the art piece as of right now. Ruri responds that the piece will be indefinitely put into storage. Ruri adds that we want to respect the artist and ensure that as much respect is given as we can during this process for the artist's wishes with the reality of the development occurring.
- The commission expresses interest in having a body look over the deaccession policy to make it as respectful to the artist as possible.
- The commission also recommends that, in the future, there is a section included on an understanding around developers and how that can affect a piece.

Motion: Juan, Mari seconds. All approve. Passed

City Artists Brief (Irene Gomez)

Irene presents to the SAC in anticipation of an eVote that will take place for CityArtists recommendations on October 19th. Irene explains city artists to the SAC and explains the changes that occurred. These changes include a change in the application process to remove barriers, assignment and scoring, funding request amounts, demographic information collection, and evaluation.

Irene adds that the Cultural Partnerships team has been on a research and development period where they're experimenting with grants and this is a part of that process. This application change mirrored Artists Up which is the opposite and is being tested to see if the effect of the changes hold up across programs.

QUESTIONS:

- The SAC is interested in knowing how Irene assesses whether the requested funding amount is appropriate for the project. Irene responds that since the project development comes after the application (instead of before), staff work with artists to develop appropriate scale.
- The SAC is also curious about whether people requested all three levels. Irene responds that they did.



Cultural Investments Committee

Dawn explains that the Cultural Investments Committee is still defining the work of the committee. She goes on to explain the close links between the Cultural Partnerships team and trying to develop a relationship between the two as thought partners.

UPDATE: Dawn outlines the fourth committee meeting and how conversations revolved around what the value add was to the office and commission. During the meeting they came up with these for priorities

- Establish a mission, vision, values, and objectives
- Align with other arts commission committees
- Thinking about impact and cultural investments
- Stretching and leveraging other aspects of funding

NEXT STEPS:

- What does measurement look like
- How do we not inversely impact the Cultural Partnerships team
- Speak with other committees to set up a joint committee meeting
- Think about mission, vision, and values through the mayor's priorities, office priorities, and commission priorities

Public Art Advisory Committee

PAAC reviews public projects being selected throughout the city. It also gives artists input on making the best project possible. Recently, Steve and Juan have been discussing a new vision for PAAC (which will hopefully involve other committees) that would be more inclusive of literary, performing arts, and arts education to name a few. They also have been having conversations around creating stronger pathways for artists through Public Art Bootcamp to temporary and permanent projects.

Facilities & Equitable Development Committee

The FED focuses mainly on multi-year and large initiatives. They focus on finding tools and resources to help support and increase cultural space in the city using a racial equity lens. Recently, they've been working on the potential development as a PDA, a racial equity analysis on the cultural facilities fund, the tiny spaces project, and a certification training program known as BASE (Building Accessible Space Equitably).

1. Chieko and Cassie recently participated in an EDI workshop with reps from different commissions. They took away seeing how culture is integrated into many different sectors and also saw how since it wasn't the number 1 top priority, it often times wasn't assumed to be integrated at all. There was also a call to think more about South King County since displacement already has happened.
2. Recently they've been diving into the RET process which began with the Staff only kickoff, will go to BASE, and then will go to a sub-group of staff, BASE, and community
3. Working on expanding the Incentive Zoning Program to include cultural space option to say build higher. The recommendations did have an eye towards racial and social equity but is still limited about cultural space definition and needs to be explored.



Chair Report

- The budget response letter dropped and input was appreciated
- There is a date change for the next SAC meeting (Nov. 19th 3:30 in Bertha Knight room)
- The matrix conversation is moving along. Terri, Steve, and Priya will meet to discuss future leadership
- Priya is filling the chair! The SAC is still looking for a co-chair (anyone is welcome within SAC!)

Director Report

- Tomorrow Randy and Matthew are presenting to the affordability sub-cabinet and on Thursday will be speaking with the Equitable Development Sub-Cabinet around the PDA and the RET process for the PDA. There is a lot of excitement around the idea
- December 11th is going to be a 1st half commission meeting and 2nd half social with Staff and Commissioners

Jorge Enrique Gonzalez Pacheco

Jorge Enrique is in the middle of the Latino Film Festival which is happening right now. He came to SAC to discuss the possibility of future collaboration between the ARTS office, commission, and individual commissioners for funding, sponsorship, and support finding a space.

The Seattle Latino Film Festival started with a weekend and expanded to 9 days including food and more than 70 films from 18 countries coming from 25 filmmakers. There is heavy community involvement with schools and partnerships to show films.

Jorge Enrique expressed how many in the film industry look to the festival as a door or multiple countries to view Latinx work (which includes 7 different languages).

The future of the festival is a full office, sponsorship, space, and greater scope and Jorge Enrique looks forward to creating a partnership to make this work.

Rick will send out Jorge Enrique's contact information.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.