

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th, 2020

Remote – Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Priya Frank (Co-Chair), Quinton Morris (Co-Chair), Cassie Chinn, Sarah Wilke, Chieko Phillips, Kayla DeMonte, Steve Galatro, Holly Jacobson, Tracy Rector, Yeggy Michael, Dawn Chirwa, Jescelle Major, James Miles, Racquel West, Mikhael Mei Williams

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Alex Rose, Ashraf Hasham, Erika Lindsay, Kelly Davidson, Dominique Stephens (MO)

Guests: David Rue, Randy Ford, Eileen Jimenez, Duffy (Electric Coffin), Reese Tanimura (SMC)

Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:05)

Approval of Minutes:

James moved to approve the commission minutes from November 2020. Mikhael seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Directors Report

Briefing: Randy Engstrom, Calandra Childers

- Randy announced that he will be leaving the ARTS Director position at the end of January. Calandra will be stepping in as Acting through 2021. ARTS will coordinate with SAC and Mayor's Office for a community-led search for a new Director. ARTS is set up well for success thanks to Arts Commissioners and staff who have committed to our racial equity values that continue to drive our work.
 - We will also have support from new Deputy Mayor Tiffany Washington and External Affairs Director Dominique Stephens
 - Calandra – Randy's work sets us up well for 2021. 2021 is a year of implementation for the Cultural Space Agency, Grants Management System, BIPOC investments, etc. Celebrations are being discussed – a big and safe (virtual) community send off!
- Questions/Comments:
 - SAC expressed appreciation to Randy – ARTS and Randy are synonymous with values and work towards equity in arts/cultural community
 - SAC asked how ARTS is confident that the work will continue in the same vein?
 - ARTS will coordinate with SAC and Mayor's Office on a community-led search process for a new Director
 - A subcommittee will be formed for this search process and Quinton is currently drafting a memo. We want it to be a collaborative process for

SAC, MO, and ARTS. We want it to be an equitable approach from a racial equity lens. We will make sure our office culture is upheld in the process.

- Beyond a new leader, ARTS staff has been talking about how we want to make sure our values are embedded in our office's DNA, no matter who becomes the next leader. Staff have been putting that into place through our policies, guidelines, culture, etc.
- There will be a virtual press release/signing ceremony on 12/15 for the Cultural Space Agency.

Chairs Report

Briefing: Priya Frank, Quinton Morris

- Commissioners terming out - Quinton acknowledged Priya, Jescelle, and Tracy for their leadership and commitment to arts and community.
- A workplan retreat for SAC will be coming up in early 2021.
- The Black Arts Showcase is on the way and an announcement will be coming out soon. Cascade media is interested in featuring the work.
- Accolades
 - Congratulations to ARTS and BASE cohort for receiving the Seattle 2020 AIA Award of Merit, which especially called out community engagement

Artist Presentations

- **Eileen Jimenez**
Web <https://www.eileenjimenez.com/>
IG [@maese.art.by.eileen.jimenez](https://www.instagram.com/maese.art.by.eileen.jimenez)
Email eileen.g.jimenez@gmail.com
- **Dandy – David Rue & Randy Ford**
David's IG [@davidrue212](https://www.instagram.com/davidrue212)
David Email DavidR@SeattleArtMuseum.org
Randy Web <https://www.therandyford.com/>
Randy's IG [@randybaby11](https://www.instagram.com/randybaby11)
Randy Email fordrandy78@yahoo.com
- **Electric Coffin – Duffy**
Web <https://www.electriccoffin.com/>
IG [@electriccoffin](https://www.instagram.com/electriccoffin)
Email duffy@electriccoffin.com

- The artists mentioned that they would like to connect more with the commission and build relationships, but don't know where to start. They also mentioned wanting more opportunities to connect with other local artists, participate in calls for art, more public art opportunities, and media production workshops or educational opportunities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.