

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 11th, 2020
Panel Room, King Street Station

Commissioners present: Quinton Morris (Vice Chair), Steven Galatro, Dawn Chirwa, Cassie Chinn, Sarah Wilke, Sheila Ghaibi, James Miles, Yeggy Michael, Chieko Phillips, Jescelle Major, Kayla DeMonte, *Phone: Mikhael Mei Williams, Holly Jacobson*

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Ashraf Hasham, Kristi Woo

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chieko moved to approve the joint commission minutes from January 2020. Dawn seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Welcome

Quinton Morris Chairs today's meeting in Priya Frank's absence.

Facilities & Equitable Development Update – Chamber of Culture

Briefing: Chieko Phillips, Sarah Wilke

At the January FED meeting, Vivian Phillips presented on the Chamber of Culture: Creating a City-Wide Platform for Cultural Advocacy. Chieko and Sarah shared highlights:

- Creative placemaking toolkit launched in 2014
- Current districts are: Capitol Hill Arts District, Historic Central Area Arts & Cultural District, Uptown Arts & Cultural Coalition, and Columbia Hillman Arts District
 - In pipeline: Georgetown and Pioneer Square
- ARTS and Vivian spent a significant amount of time in 2019 working with the districts to see how they can work together and centralize efforts to create a Chamber of Culture
- Mission & values across districts: Equity / Artists First / Advocacy / Community
 - Recognize disenfranchisement
 - "Artists First" has a connection with what we heard from the community around creative economy work
 - In the community there are a lot of individual efforts going on – need to share that info with each other rather than working in pockets
 - Especially from Central area to the South End needs zoning/upzoning support from Chamber of Culture
 - Advocacy strategy across agencies, etc.

- Recommendations:
 - Year one: Adopt final org structure, establish governance, establish strategic priorities, aggregate existing research, explore capacity building
 - Year two: Implement programs and funding plan, deepen governmental relationships outside of ARTS
 - Year three: Institutionalize
- Vivian asked the group: How could something like the Chamber of Culture be resourced? Could this intersect with the Cultural Space PDA? Vivian encouraged the FED and full SAC to provide advice.
 - Especially the neighborhood design process seems like a beast. Is there capacity for that to be done effectively? (to make sense for the districts and the individual neighborhoods) We need to practice more equity in the process
 - Having a fully resourced entity that does cross-district work would make sense

SAC Questions/Comments:

- Success of this work depends on buy-in from neighborhoods and a collective effort
- What are the current resources and what in additional would be needed?
 - Arts budget. Studies recommend/anticipates approximately \$350,000 over 3 years. EDI capacity grant may go to one of the neighborhoods
- B.A.S.E has direct connections into the communities, and we may consider using B.A.S.E graduates for vetting
- Please send ideas to Cassie/Sarah to pass onto Vivian Phillips
- This work will live in the FED Committee work plan

Youth Arts Update

Briefing: Kristi Woo

Kristi provided an overview of the Youth Arts grant. Highlights include:

- Purpose is to provide young people with memorable art experiences and to support equitable access to arts and cultural learning opportunities for Seattle's Middle and High School aged youth
- The greatest disparities between young people who have access to arts education and those who don't are based on race, socio economics, home language and disabilities. Youth Arts prioritizes programs serving young people within these demographics
- Eligibility: Individual teaching artists, art and cultural organizations, youth-service agencies, and degree-granting institutions are eligible to apply. Projects must take place between September 2020 - August 2021 and September 2021 - August 2022 and must take place within Seattle
- Funding Level: Recipients will receive a total of \$12,000 distributed over two (2) years of Youth Arts funding support (for programs in 2020-21 and 2021-22). \$6,000 is available each year to support project expenses.
- 2020 Youth Arts application deadline is 2/24/2020
- For more info visit: <https://www.seattle.gov/arts/programs/grants/youth-arts-grant>

Yeggy shared his experience as a previous Youth Arts grantee. The grant was for a free afterschool art program for 11-13-year-old youth from low income/disadvantaged families. Youth created art using upcycled/recycled materials, installed artwork on a bridge, and participated in outdoor arts events at Seattle parks. Cassie is also able to answer questions about the youth program at the Wing Luke Museum.

Kristi provided handout materials on the 2020-2021 Youth Arts Application and Funding Profile.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- The Cultural Investments Committee has been a significant part of this grant work's process
- The SAC appreciates the work of the youth arts team and CIC. They feel the power of decision-making is centralized and moved towards community
- Dawn encourages SAC members to sit on the panel to see the process and how inclusive the program is
- What is the method to grants – are there smaller grants for more years versus larger grants for less years?
 - In the past applicants could choose the amount, but about three years ago, we noticed those with less capacity and more capacity all needed different amounts, so to make things more equitable we changed to a flat \$6,000 per year
- Are panelists paid? Yes
- Statement of disparities regarding panelists (page 2 of the Youth Arts Profile Report) is helpful, but not sure if that means all local POC are represented. This is one thing we want to celebrate but not the only thing. When names come forward, a sentence or two on why they were picked, and context would be helpful

Director Report

Briefing: Randy Engstrom

1. SAC Work Plan and Creative Economy Roadmap Report Connections
 - The SAC work plan should speak directly to our community engagement last summer around the creative economy
 - We should also weave in SAC's historical work. Our community engagement didn't just start last year
 - Racial equity and civic narrative shift will be at the top and center of all the work we're doing together and individually
 - Randy will be running the Cabinet retreat this year and plans to center creativity and racial equity. We want arts and culture to be a vehicle for Seattle's civic narrative
 - Creative investment will always be the through line of our work
2. Festivals & Events Committee
 - There will be a lot of focus this year on festivals and events. This committee will be a joint commission effort and interdepartmental team
 - The committee will inform the future of Bumbershoot and local events leading up to Bumbershoot and the Mayor's Arts Awards this summer

- Support of 10-15 events
- Young people involvement
- Designing a survey to learn from community what types of festivals Seattle wants
- Innovation Advisory Council involvement - OFM/ARTS to lead project on tech/arts festival
 - Facebook has a mural program that could be potentially involved

3. Cultural Space Agency/PDA Update

- We have Council Member Tammy Morales' support along with partnering department directors' support for the PDA
- We anticipate a spring launch
- We have a relationship with Office of Housing and the Equitable Development Initiative
- We are making sure to do this right in a way that honors community voice and current issues

4. Vacant Council Seat Update

- We currently have 1 council seat vacant on the SAC. Vivian Hua and Vanessa Villalobos have been put forward as candidates to consider. We are still waiting to hear back from Council on their new appointment process

5. 'Summer of Art' Update

- Overview: In the Fall of 2019, th Mayor requested a series of community centered cultural events that could occur throughout the City in the summer of 2020. Currently called 'Summer of Art', this is envisioned as a way to celebrate and invest in Seattle's vast creative community, engage and connect neighborhoods and cultures, amplify our local artists, and connect young people to meaningful opportunities throughout the City.
- Structure: ARTS, in collaboration with DON, OED, CEN, PARKS, SDOT and others will identify 10-15 existing community cultural celebrations that will be enhanced with additional funding to expand the public's experience:
 - Create a new neighborhood mural – either temporary on construction fencing, or permanent, in partnership with the associated cultural district or BIA
 - Create a new youth career connected learning project associated with the event, to provide hands-on, career-connected learning opportunities
 - Create new performative, programmatic elements that further invest in the community's creative spirit

SAC Questions/Comments:

- How are the 15 events selected?
 - We did a scan across the office looking at neighborhoods, arts programs, and events we fund to create a running list. We also asked other departments and made sure to center creativity and culture, both geographically and culturally. We are also looking at diversity in terms of age and want to make space for youth voices. Through a committee process, we'll decided on a tiered system where some events get funds, some get permit help, etc.
- Encourages to consider homegrown events that do not often reach the level of applications and permits

- The goal is not to invent new things but encourage events that haven't received a lot of support in the past
- What is the timeline?
 - Planning on a campaign through April and a May launch

6. ARTS 2020 Work Plan & SAC 202 Work Plan Update

- Handouts provided. Connected both work plans with goals & action steps extrapolated from the [“A Community-Centered Road Map Towards an Equitable and Inclusive Creative Economy in Seattle” report](#). Priorities are color coded to show how we are responding to community needs that were identified last summer.
- Next month we will put together a timeline for execution, so we can start the work in April
- Budget Letter to Mayor is due May 1st. We will need to list SAC priorities and reintroduce our work
 - Timeline is important
 - We currently have committee workplans for Facilities & Equitable Development and Public Art Advisory Committee. Cultural Investments and Youth Arts is coming along.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- SAC should prepare for the best and worst. We should hope that Seattle will prioritize our work no matter what our economy looks like, but we should have a contingency plan
 - Arts has a dedicated revenue source, the admissions tax, but if there is a dip, we will have 2 years notice to prepare
 - Arts has shared positions in the City to creatively help with other departments' issues
 - Arts finds opportunities that are in the best economic interest of the city and figures out ways to last together
 - Half of the Cultural Facilities fund will go to the Cultural Space Agency
- Which agency authorizes the Cultural Space Agency?
 - Seattle City Council
- We should be clear on our messaging that the Cultural Space Agency is not authorized by WA state, that there is a dedicated revenue source, and clear charter
 - We have a clear governance model and community-led design/board

Chair Report

Briefing: Quinton Morris

1. SAC Matrix Update: We have most of the matrix filled out, which will help with future SAC recruitment and SAC/Council meetings
2. SAC Buddy Meetings have been scheduled and some already started. We have a new SAC onboarding packet for new members and are also building a FAQ based on these meetings – will distribute after all Buddy Meetings are finished and information is compiled
3. SAC 2020 update: In April, there will be another joint SAC/SMC meeting. We plan to look at both commissions' workplans, discuss next steps, and submit our budget letter in May. The two commissions will meet again at the end of year to evaluate progress

4. Prior to 2019, we talked about inviting artists to the full commission meeting to present their work. How do we feel about doing that again this year?
 - We didn't have a formalized process at that time and mostly got recommendations from contacts, which ran through the executive committee. Perhaps this conversation should live in the Cultural Investments Committee to discuss criteria and figure out a formalized method.

Other Announcements

Briefing: All

- The Creative Advantage Partners Roster is open – please let teaching artists know. Ashraf will send out a link to the SAC to share

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.