

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 9th, 2021

Remote – Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Quinton Morris (Co-Chair), Sarah Wilke (Co-Chair), Cassie Chinn, Chieko Phillips, Dawn Chirwa, Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson, Yeggy Michael, James Miles, Racquel West, Mikhael Mei Williams, Steve Galatro, Vivian Hua, Vanessa Villalobos

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Allie Lee, Kelly Davidson, Ashraf Hasham, Erika Lindsay, Kathy Hsieh, Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar, Alex Rose, Dominique Stephens (MO)

Guests: Sam Choi (Artist), Ebony Arunga (SAC appointment pending), Rick Araluce (SAC appointment pending), Reese Tanimura (SMC), Karen Hanan (ArtsWA), Hollis Wong Wear

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chieko moved to approve the commission minutes from February 2021. James seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

- Christa Thomas, member of the Hiawatha Artist Community, gave public comment about preserving affordable space/art space in Seattle during the pandemic as we are seeing assets leave the hands of artists and arts districts' non-profits and moving into the hands of high end developers. Christa hasn't seen any covenants preserving affordable creative space when developers receive tax credits for housing and would like to know how the City/SAC can help preserve the arts at street level.
 - Nicholas Nyland, member of SOIL Art Gallery in the TK Arts Building also provided public comment via email, raising similar concerns as Christa.
- Ethan Anderson, Seattle-based musician and member of the Recording Academy PNW Chapter, gave public comment about bringing awareness to the needs of local live music artists and venues. Ethan is interested in being more involved in local arts advocacy.

Introductions:

- Welcome new Arts Commissioners Ebony Arunga and Rick Araluce! (Appointments are currently pending and awaiting City Council confirmation.)
 - Vivian Hua and Vanessa Villalobos have been confirmed by City Council and are now officially voting members of the SAC!

ArtsWA: Feedback on Phase 3 Reopening Guidelines

Briefing: Karen Hanan, Executive Director of ArtsWA

ArtsWA is leading charge on reopening strategies for the arts sector, and after having convened with different arts groups, museums, cultural centers, theatres, festivals, etc., is seeking feedback on COVID-

19 Phase 3 guidelines for museums and the performing arts sector. Karen will follow up with the specific guideline documents and contact information.

Artist Presentation: Sam Jungwoo Choi

Sam shared a compilation of his autobiographical art work detailing his experiences as a queer trans Korean American.

- <https://samdoodles.art/@sam.doodles>
- <https://www.instagram.com/sam.doodles/>
- <https://twitter.com/samjwc>

Director's Report

Briefing: Calandra Childers

- Currently tracking the American Rescue Plan – how it will flow through the City and State and what our opportunities are to get funds out into community
 - Potential funding for Hope Corps / centering BIPOC creatives in the City's recovery plan
- Access for All legislation update – legislation has been edited to be more equitable (failed at ballot in 2017, at the time legislation was written so that funding would be allocated to support large historic organizations), recent opportunity to make it councilmanic did not pass, but there is still an opportunity to have it on the ballot for people to vote on. Something to consider at the SAC retreat
 - King County Council is the decision-making body, Inspire WA is organizing, 4Culture will execute funding
- City's recovery plan update – Director Pamela Banks (Recovery Director & OED Director) is focused on the economic recovery of the city and is focused on the downtown core. With Reimagining Seattle work, short term interventions and long-term strategies for the BIPOC community outside of the downtown core are also being discussed.
 - Public Art interventions are in the works
- ARTS Cultural Partnerships funding update – ARTS' largest grantmaking program is the Civic Partners program where we fund over 200 organizations (general operating support). We've made changes to our funding allocation matrix by removing org budget size and only going off of scores, which leans more heavily towards our values of racial equity. Sarah and Steven have been part of conversations with impacted organizations and Kathy Hsieh at ARTS has been leading this work and providing context to why we are making these changes. In 2020, 31% of funding went to BIPOC organizations. With this shift, 48% of funding is going to BIPOC organizations, which is a significant change expedited by ARTS Black Love Union demands.
- Questions:
 - Re: Pamela Banks and recovery work – what are opportunities for collaboration with Seattle Music Commission? Will there be continued partnership on the creative economy roadmap work from 2019?
 - Creative economy roadmap work got sidelined in 2020 due to COVID-19 response, but Alex Rose, Ashraf Hasham, and Reese Tanimura have been

engaging with both commissions' work and acting as connection points. We are hoping to identify some of the roadmap work during the SAC retreat and how the two commissions' roles intersect.

- Over last few months ARTS and SAC have been focused on jobs pipeline and youth opportunities while OFM and SMC have been more focused on the industry itself and business side of things (with community and pipelines being at the heart of the work).
 - Would also like to see links with the Film Taskforce.
 - Director Banks will be attending the next SMC meeting on 3/17 (W). This may be an opportunity to get on the same page.
 - Recovery is not a one industry/one sided issue – arts as a whole needs to be elevated.
- Youth + Community Committee (SMC) – Hoping this can be a shared committee to bridge opportunities and help shape the work of the Youth Arts program @ ARTS. SAC members are welcome to join.

Chairs' Report

Briefing: Quinton Morris, Sarah Wilke

- Director Search Advisory Committee update – Mikhael Williams and Sharon Williams (SAC alumni and ED of CD Forum) have agreed to Co-Chair the committee. We have referred back to our SAC discussion from February to make sure we fill out voices we don't have in this room. Currently putting together a timeline.
- Cultural Space Agency update – The interim council is working on how to transfer power of organization to permanent leadership by 7/31. Constituency is the decision-making body of the Cultural Space Agency so we want to make sure to keep that moving. Please reach out to Sarah or Cassie for more info on the status of the work.
- SAC retreat update – Hollis Wong Wear will facilitate our retreat on 3/30 (T) and will engage us in a preparation session today.

Retreat Prep Session

Briefing: Hollis Wong Wear

- [Framing Exercise: How can we set SAC up for success in 2021?](#)
- Our retreat intention is to create an actionable 12-month work plan.
 - Commissioners break out into 4 small groups to brainstorm/discuss the following questions:
 - If BIPOC artists/arts and culture were centered in Seattle's recovery, what would it look like?
 - How could SAC activate over the next 12 months to realize that vision?
 - Break out group discussion notes:
 - [Group 1](#)
 - [Group 2](#)
 - [Group 3](#)

- [Group 4](#)
- Break out group discussions will be reviewed by SAC Co-Chairs, Hollis, and Calandra to help frame the retreat agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.