



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2017
City Hall, Room 370

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Jeff Benesi, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Terri Hiroshima (Co-Chair), Ana Lester, Quinton Morris, Vivian Phillips (Chair), Tracy Rector, S. Surface, Sharon Williams

Staff in attendance: Randy Engstrom, Kelly Davidson, Kristi Woo, Diana Falchuk, and Amanda Standley of the Office of Arts & Culture

Guests: Artist Miha Sarani

Call to Order:

Vivian Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., with an introduction of Miha Sarani.

Artist Presentation:

Miha Sarani presented his work to the commission, and invited those interested in learning more to contact him at <https://www.mihasarani.com/>.

Approval of the April Minutes:

Tracy Rector moved to approve the April Seattle Arts Commission meeting minutes. Priya Frank seconded the motion. All present approved.

SAC RSJI Training

Diana presented the primary Racial Equity training plan, which includes assigning episodes 3 and 4 of the series *Race: The Power of Illusion* for viewing before undergoing a two-part training session. The first session will take place in September and will explain 'Why We Lead with Race.' The second session will be held in November in advance of the SAC workplan development process and address 'How We Do this Work Together.'

Members discussed the inclusion of Music Commissioners into these sessions, however, it was decided that SAC would take this work on initially and invite the Music Commission when deemed necessary.

Youth Arts Funding Allocation

Kristi Woo, Youth Arts Funding Manager at ARTS, presented the recommended recipients of the 2017/2018 Youth Arts grant award. During Kristi's first year managing the program, she modified the application to ensure that school enrollment criteria language was not a barrier to participation; she also standardized a funding allotment of \$6,000 for all awardees. The change addressed the tendency of well-resourced, primarily white-led organizations with greater staff grant writing capacity to consistently



request higher levels of funding resources, while primarily people-of-color-led organizations and smaller grassroots organizations facing less funding and capacity supports consistently requested fewer resources and may have experienced greater challenges in articulating their case for support.

The funding program panelists were all people of color who shared that they were happy they could lean on the ARTS' commitment to Race and Social Justice in their decision-making process. The total program budget is \$157,000 and incorporates funding for the second year of 2015-16 awards as well as the first year of funding awards for 2017-18 finalists.

Jonathan Cunningham asked how site visits were incorporated into the funding selection process; Kristi shared that while not a previous practice with the program, there is a goal this year to conduct site visits with all selected groups after the funding is distributed.

Juan Alonzo-Rodriguez motioned to accept the funding recommendations for the Youth Arts Funding Program. Jonathan Cunningham seconded the motion. Cassie abstained from the vote, while all others approved.

Directors Report

Randy presented updates on the Access for All legislation, the LANGSTON Executive Director search process, and new ACLS Mellon Fellow at ARTS. Randy committed to sharing all communications material regarding King Street Station with the Seattle Arts Commission before information is released to the public.

SAC Mayoral Vacancies

Vivian suggested sending the two previous nominees under consideration for the Seattle Arts Commission to the Mayor's Office, so they may proceed with the appointment process for two vacant positions. Amber Rose will follow up with the Mayor's Office staff.

Commission Leadership

Vivian proposed a co-chair model for implementation in Commission Committees, and asked members who are interested in either chairing or co-chairing the SAC and the various Committees to respond to her by July 2017 for consideration. Areas of opportunity include engagement on the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) and on Youth & Communities Committee (Y+C).

Inquiries about the time commitment and workload of the SAC Chair were made, though Vivian assured Commissioners that ARTS staff will support the SAC to accomplish its work. Vivian feels she is over engaged, and that while that is her choice, there is capacity for the office to take a more active role.

The Meeting Adjourned at 5:25pm