

**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**  
Minutes  
Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 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

**Staff in attendance:** Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Alex Rose, Ashraf Hasham, Erika Lindsay, Jenny Ku, Flossie Pennington, Matthew Richter, Lovell Davis, Kathy Hsieh

**Guests:** Pinky Estell, Reese Tanimura, Vivian Phillips

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

James moved to approve the commission minutes from October 2020. Dawn seconded. Approved.

**Public Comment:**

Public comment was provided by Pinky Estell.

- Allie to follow-up with SAC with Pinky's contact info re: opportunities to utilize Cornish's creative/art spaces for community

**Welcome Racquel West, our new Get Engaged Commissioner!**

**New SAC Co-Chair**

**Briefing: Quinton Morris**

SAC Co-Chair Priya Frank will be terming out at the end of the year. Sarah Wilke has been asked to serve as the next Co-Chair (starting 2021) and has agreed. Quinton spoke to commissioners of color individually to make sure they feel represented and received support from the executive committee and ARTS leadership. According to SAC bylaws, there is no approval process required for Co-Chair nominations, however, Quinton recommended that we express our support for the decision.

- The SAC unanimously feels Sarah holds strong racial equity values, practices strategic leadership, centers community, and holds a wealth of knowledge that will benefit the commission and community.
- We will have a celebratory send off at our December meeting for outgoing commissioners – Priya Frank, Jescelle Major, and Tracy Rector

**Black Arts Showcase Update**

**Briefing: Quinton Morris, Vivian Phillips**

After the murder of George Floyd and BLM movement, the Mayor's Arts Awards pivoted to the Black Arts Showcase project, which Vivian Phillips and Quinton Morris are co-leading. Vivian presented an overview of the project including its purpose, vision, format concept, medium, and ideas for story structure. Highlights:

- Mission Statement – *The Black Arts Showcase will proclaim the abundance of Black artists and cultural workers in Seattle to celebrate our rich legacy, honor those on whose shoulders we stand, lift up and inspire our current and future cultural bearers.*
- Vision – *The Black Arts Showcase supports a holistic Black artist ecosystem that embraces voices and bodies, and uplifts the resilient, visionary, and incomparable brilliance that exists in our region. The Black Arts Showcase serves as a window to the world that will spotlight and honor our Black creative visionaries, arts leaders and future artists at the forefront of social and political change.*
- A committee of Black arts leaders in community went through exercises to collectively identify the mission and vision of the project. The committee also generated a list of individuals and organizations for consideration to be included – this list will begin to serve as a data search tool for learning about Black Arts History in Seattle.
- Format Concept – *Lay a foundation of understanding the role of Black art and artists in our area; carry forward stories that illustrate the diversity of Black art representation; weave together remembrances with contemporary stories.*
- Proposed Medium – Web-based; yearbook design; video shorts
- Genres – Theater, dance, music, visual art, literature, architecture, photography, film
- Draft Ideas for Story Structure – The Foundation of Black Art in Seattle; Black Revolution, Black Community, Black Art; Black Art Legacies; The Future of Black Art is Now
- Next Steps – Pitch to potential media partner, refine plan and structure, budget, develop timeline, and develop production team

#### Questions/Comments:

- How will Central Area stakeholders be involved in this work? Will HAACD be involved?
  - May potentially partner with NAAM, not a rotating exhibit but something that stays.
- Where will the showcase be hosted?
  - Hope to co-create platform with media partner
- Love the interweaving of history and what things look like now – would be powerful to see it grow and be sustained
- Does serving on the committee exempt folks from being part of the project as creators?
  - No.
- Consider adding public art to genres; need to think about how to communicate this project with community, folks who are not into art, the school system, etc. and who is benefiting.
- If we are thinking about the longevity of the project, the Black Education Heritage and History Alliance could potentially be a good partner.
- Participating organizations and individuals can be provided with a clip/excerpt of the project for their portfolio or fundraising purposes.
- Will the committee get back together for a long-term project in addition to the 2021 project?
  - Yes.

## **Chairs Report**

### **Briefing: Priya Frank, Quinton Morris**

- SAC feedback is encouraged for the City Council Budget letter – please write comments into the shared document emailed out previously, or directly email Kayla or Holly by this Friday.
  - We’ve been specific in asking City Council and the Mayor not to make cuts that will harm BIPOC community.
- Post-election support and check in

## **Directors Report**

### **Briefing: Randy Engstrom, Calandra Childers**

- Recruitment for outgoing commissioners
  - ARTS Black Love Union (BLU) involvement with SAC appointments – still talking through what a long-term process should look like, but in the short term, BLU will be involved in the upcoming nominations process. Feedback from BLU:
    - Having community representation from neighborhoods, rather than individual based – underrepresented neighborhoods include South Park, Rainier Beach, etc.
    - Need broader representation and need to think about the intersectionality of communities – what can we do to bring all the voices to the table?
    - Need to be strategic with commissioners’ subcommittee involvement
    - How do we make sure commissioners are not just arms-length from people here?
  - Next steps - will talk internally to put together final nominees list, will bring that list to executive committee for approval, then submit to the Mayor. We will also need to think about succession planning for subcommittee Chairs.

### **Questions/Comments:**

- What about an interview process?
  - Tricky because we don’t want to set people up in case Mayor doesn’t choose
- Are there lessons learned from other commissions?
  - There is no one formula.
  - The Music Commission has a public nomination process; Design Commission and Youth Commission take letters of interest and have open application processes
- ARTS 2021 priorities
  - Increase BIPOC investments / support BIPOC led efforts
    - Convene Citywide grantmaking process
    - Support Black Arts Showcase
    - Revise allocations / contracts internal to ARTS
  - Support recovery and reimagination
    - Co-lead Seattle Together with DON
    - Develop and implement Hope Corps

- Foster an Inclusive Creative Economy with OED/OFM
  - Continue to work with cultural community to meet needs of the sector as it recovers from Covid-19
- Advance youth opportunity
  - Continue and evolve Creative Advantage
  - Facilitate career pathways
- Preserve cultural space / affordability
  - Support launch of Cultural Space Agency
  - Partner with Equitable Development Initiative
  - Coordinate Cultural Districts, BASE, and other related programs
- Small Business Stabilization Fund (Briefing: Jenny Ku)
  - SBSF just opened another round of applications – creatives are encouraged to apply; 10% of the fund goes towards creative industries. Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees are welcome to apply.
    - More Info: <https://www.seattle.gov/office-of-economic-development/small-business/small-business-programs/stabilization-fund>
    - Application: <https://www.seattle.gov/office-of-economic-development/small-business/small-business-programs/stabilization-fund/application>

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.