

**MINUTES**

**Seattle Music Commission Meeting**  
*Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.*  
*Zoom Conference*

**Commissioners Present:** Reese Tanimura (Chair), Jennifer Czeisler, Tim Lennon, Daniel Pak, Sue Ennis, Paula Nava Madrigal, Terry Morgan, Kitty Wu, Joleen Hughes, Paula Madrigal, Ben Secord, Nate Omdal, Sharlese Metcalf

**Commissioners Absent:** Ben Hunter

**City Staff Present:** Allie Lee, Alex Rose, ZAG Awwad, Chris Swenson, Scott Plusquellec, Meli Darby, Ashraf Hasham, Randy Engstrom, Meghan Sebold, Bobby Lee, Dominique Stephens

**Guests:** N/A

**Call to Order:** The was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Reese Tanimura

**Public Comment:**

- N/A

**Welcome – Reese Tanimura**

- Chris Swenson is now Acting Director of OFM

**Regular Commission Business – All**

- Review Agenda
- Approval of March 2020 SMC Meeting Minutes:
  - Sue Ennis motioned to approve, Daniel Pak seconded the motion, all approved (no oppose, no abstain)

**Alex – Updates and filling in for Randy Engstrom**

- **Small business relief for OED**
  - More than 9000 businesses applied, but only 250 were awarded
    - There's great need

- There are many restrictions with the current funding source (e.g. Age restrictions)
  - Music venues couldn't apply as many are 21+
- Looking for feedback from the commission on what should be prioritized
- There are federal and private funds, and potentially more CDBG dollars
- **Rental waivers for tenants of properties owned by the city**
  - Efforts to have more landlords follow suit
  - Ask Matthew Richter for more details
- **Seattle Together**
  - An initiative run by 9 different departments working together to address social isolation
  - Website is being built to centralize resources (now live at <https://seattletgether.org/>)
  - Working on a streaming component to give a platform for artists
  - Ask Ashraf for more info on being a community organizer for Seattle Together
- **ARTS budget decline**
  - ARTS relies on admissions tax for funding, and there's no events to charge
  - Getting creative with current and future spending
- **Festivals**
  - Special Events Committee + OFM are working with special events folks across the country and internationally
  - Every municipality is bound to what is happening on a county, state, and federal level
  - Difficult to have assurance on the unknown
  - Chris: slow rollout into normalcy
  - Parades and open-air festival on the furthest end of rollouts
  - Venues and performance facilities would be on the sooner end
- **Reese – Check-ins + Feedback and Concerns**
  - **Terry**
    - All of his events are moving to Fall/Winter
    - Clients want to provide something for the public on our way back to normalcy
      - Trying to find an outlet for people to be entertained
    - Since all of their events are outdoors, it's easier for them to practice social distancing at events
  - **Joleen**
    - Lost of clients that are stressed, navigating programs to get funding
    - Worried about the West Seattle Bridge

- Launched a “Lemonade Stand” project
      - Firm is giving away **free legal services for 5 companies**
      - Email [info@hmlglaw.com](mailto:info@hmlglaw.com) for more info
- **Sue**
  - **MusiCares** raised \$10M for artists and hoping to raise more
  - PNW chapter of the Recording Academy are pushing resources for people to get **unemployment benefits** and expediting security checks
- **Alex**
  - The city and the region is in the public eye, and other cities are following our lead
  - This time has surfaced a lot of things we’ve known about the economy not working for a lot of folks
  - We’ll take on the challenge on leading the change
- **Tim**
  - **Pivoting all work to SARF**
  - First local grassroots fundraising effort to come out for community and for artists
    - \$430K into artists’ hands as of last week, 920 people so far
    - 1/4 of them musicians
  - There’s over \$700K on its way
  - Amount of need expressed is **way** more than requests
- **Pak**
  - Totem Star has shut down the studio since 3/9, and launched remote sessions the next day
  - **Remote sessions** are incredibly successful
    - All teaching artists retaining all working hours, consultations with youth 1:1
    - Creating space for youth to engage and be with community
    - **Virtual Open mics**
  - Partnership between Totem Star and SPS Skill Centers
    - Providing twice a week sessions with Skills Center Students
  - Digital Equity conversation @ Y+C Committee mtg
    - **26 thousand youth don’t have access to SPS tech**
- **Kitty**
  - **Mom beat COVID-19!!!**
  - Sees a lot of cracks in PPP and resource funding
  - Fundraisers tentatively moving to October
  - Thinking about the **long term plans of WA Hall and 206 Zulu** (18 Months)
  - **Beat Masters moving online**
  - Beats to the Rhyme
    - Have a bunch of MK2’s, but **looking for more laptops**

- **Scott**
  - In contact with other nightlife counterparts inter/nationally
    - Highlights **restrictions on public funding we have in Seattle**, as opposed to other cities such as Berlin, Sydney, and Hamburg that give money directly to live music venues and commercial rent
    - Highlights **need to reform gift of public funds guidelines** locally and nationally
- **Paula**
  - **Giving lessons online**
  - Don't know how internet concerts will happen, but knows it's a need
- **Meli**
  - **Fresh off maternity leave!!!**
  - Checking in with peers/friends in **talent buying/production** world
  - **Agency people getting laid off**, affecting everyone on all sides
- **Meghan**
  - Digital Equity conversation
    - **OED and Seattle IT** are leading a program to **"bridge the digital divide"**
    - Would like to **involve SMC in that conversation**
  - **Unemployed workforce pilot program**
  - Coalition building for broadband access
  - Literacy Frameworks
- **Jerry**
  - Doing lots of 1 on 1s with venue owners (businesses and properties)
  - There **aren't a lot of options for relief for venues**
- **Ben**
  - **The Residency**
    - Taken **inspiration from Totem Star with virtual programming**
- **Sharlese**
  - Trying to keep youth at KEXP engaged
  - 1 on 1 conversations with different organizations around the city, getting ideas on how to do this work
  - **Hosts calls with KEXP youth and other members in the community**
- **Reese**
  - Northwest Folklife
    - **Postponing NWFL and possibly moving to a larger digital platform**
      - How can we use this platform to **help community groups put work out into the world**
    - Pre-production (months) hard to do without guarantee, especially in thinking about moving into the fall

- **Randy**
  - In new role of **leading and tracking philanthropic conversations for the City**
  - Strategies to **facilitate social cohesion, belonging, and mental health**
  - **Creative Economy will lead us out of this**
  - **Bold policy changes** that have never been on the table before this
    - Green New Deal
    - Creative Economy
    - WPA/UBI
    - Cultural Space Agency
      - Community wealth building
    - Inclusive Economy
      - Policies, programs, and systems
  - Tyrone Cunningham from TAF
    - Able to reach out to Comcast directly to advocate for free hotspots and were able to help out
- **Bobby**
  - **\$1.5M in second round of OED's Small Biz relief** (Federal funds) to be paired with private dollars being raised
  - More to come, City Council still has to vote on this

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

*Attachment: SMC Chatbox 041520*