

**MINUTES**

**Seattle Music Commission Meeting**

*Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 12:15 – 2:00 p.m.*

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue

Conference Room 4050/4060

**Commissioners Present:** John Roderick, Holly Hinton, Tom Mara, Jon Stone, Joan Sandler, Karen P. Thomas, Marcus Womack, Megan Jasper, Adrian Burton, Jody McKinley, Ben London

**Commissioners Absent:** Elena Dubinets, Wyking Garrett, Alex Kochan, DeVon Manier, Nadine Zgonc

**SMC Staff Present:** Rachel Sawyer, Julie Borden

**Call to Order:** The twenty-sixth meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Jody McKinley

**Public Comment:** Anna Minard from The Stranger

**Approval of Minutes:** Unanimous Approval of 11/21/13 Minutes

**Office of Film + Music Leadership Transition**

- Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim, guest speaker
- Following last week's announcement that James Keblas would not be re-appointed, Commission reached out to Mayor's Office to ask them to share their vision regarding the future of music in Seattle
- Frustration is not directed to Kate Becker, the new director, know that she is capable and are glad to welcome her
- Deputy Mayor Kim: worked with nonprofit in ID; before worked in Olympia as policy analyst, particularly in housing and human services; role now is Deputy Mayor focused on external relations; current work is finding out what administration is doing right and what could be done better
- Have heard a lot of thoughts on this transition and is here to learn more about industry needs and to respond as can; also make sure that going forward the lines of communication are open between administration and music industry
- What is the administration's vision? Surprised that we didn't receive a statement such as were made public with other changes in leadership.
- Mayor's appointments for Civil Rights and Police Chief were more about the fit, not necessarily a reflection of their work.
- Decision regarding James Keblas was not about his job performance; Mayor applauds and appreciates the leadership he has provided; not a reflection that Mayor intends to change direction of work; more about personality/personnel fit; looking for right fit on team
- Want to maintain what has been working well but also continue to strive to work to make it better

- One of the places we could do better is with communication (MJ)—problem that the first communication with the group was a crisis and there was a problem with how message was delivered; felt disrespectful of work; would have been much more respectful to have a conversation with the people who are going to be affected; feels like lack of communication shows lack of caring;
- BL: A lot of work has gone into getting to this point; disrespectful of candidate to heavily court this community for fundraising and votes, but then did not consult for such an impactful decision
- TM: Lack of communication regarding what is the Mayor trying to achieve with this change; insufficient information, lack of context.
- HH: This is a volunteer board made up of people in demanding professions, one of the reasons they continue with work is knowing under James' leadership that the work counts and makes a difference; also, reject the notion of "it's just politics," that's not how we do things in Seattle.
- JS: Moving forward we need to continue the communication on a regular basis
- BL: When this body came together, there was a level of skepticism for what could actually be accomplished, James and others did incredible work; very unfortunate that this work has been tarnished by politics; Mayor needs to understand that there needs to be a lot of work to gain trust
- KT: As a new member, was a skeptic, has been really impressed by amazing work; important that this work not be side-tracked but this crisis
- RF: what is the vision for the music industry?
- HK: about six weeks in the office, we are still doing individual briefings and learning what is needed; want to schedule meetings with stakeholders with Mayor so he can articulate that vision directly; his inability to join today is not a reflection of his not wanting to be here; Murray has always been a significant champion of the Arts, he understands and appreciates concerns
- AB: Music education is very important to the Commission; is this a value of administration?
- HK: Have not yet spoken with Mayor on specifics, should be part of conversation; knowing his track record and how he has talked about education as a tool to address disparities, think he would certainly welcome and support; now is a time to gather this information to contribute to policy
- HH: Would like to see assurance that admissions tax continues re Creative Advantage funding. Also want to see someone from Mayor's Office working with commission to assist with access to Education Levy funds.
- HK: Now is perfect timing to talk with Mayor about this issue and he will be briefed on Creative Advantage next week.
- TM: Seattle is a Music City. Music is an attractor for talent in other sectors as well. One way to develop base is connecting young people to paths in jobs in music. Tangibly working on Career Day and internship programs are critical to this effort.
- HK: Murray is interested in supporting those kinds of creative ideas.
- JM: Request that we have a commitment to work plan. Want meeting with Mayor. Best way to move forward is to have demonstrated support of the work.
- MW: Understand that change in leadership is due to personality fit, not with being unhappy with work plan.
- HK: Looking at what can be instituted that has life beyond any particular elected official, should also extend to any leadership.
- Kate Becker: Good to get this all out; appreciates candor. Committed to carrying on work and James is helping through transition; good staff to continue work; deeply committed to this work and very happy to be back with the group; James will continue to work to make sure Kate is well informed and that we falter as little as possible as we move forward.

- BL: Where this group has been really successful is creating dialogue with disparate groups early in the process of projects. One thing we can do is help Mayor consider what role music can play in all City initiatives.
- MJ: And we want his endorsement of work plan; that would show his commitment to community.
- TM: How can we prevent this sort of thing from happening again?
- HK: Appreciate the effort to separate issues with process from opinion of Kate. Expect that she will be an excellent leader. Will share feedback with Mayor.
- Kate: Many people from both film and music community have been asking similar questions. The answers have been consistent with what Hyeok said. Cleaning house is the reality of new administration, even if that is not what we like. James is continuing to help transition despite the situation.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Executive Committee**

#### **Commission Ordinance**

- As was previously announced, Commission ordinance passed by City Council.
- Makes Commission much more difficult to dissolve - ensures work moving forward.
- Allows for extension of term limits. New limit is up to 6 consecutive years.

#### **Open Commission Positions**

- Currently have one open position. Was offered and accepted but unclear if candidate is still committed.
- Have list of possible candidates.
- All commissioners are encouraged to bring forward names as appropriate.

#### **Update on Committee Co-Chairs**

- Youth and Community is still in search of Vice-Chair.
- Ricardo Frazer has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair of Policy and Communication.

#### **Recap Music/Arts Commissions Mixer**

- Relationship with Arts Commission is still new.
- Arts Commission is in a different position in that they are more established and are funded.
- Successful interactions among commissioners and good dialogue.
- Working together has illustrated that there are many commonalities.
- Would like to continue mixers and consider working with other such groups.
- Consider establishing liaisons attending meetings to have point of contact and sharing of ideas.
- Would like to look at quarterly mixers, perhaps less formal.

## **Policy + Communication**

### **City of Music User Experience**

- SeaTac: RFP has been issued and have selected Gigs 4 U to continue programming of live music.
- Have gotten excellent feedback from airport guests.
- Both Port of Seattle and concessionaires have committed money to continue program.
- Would like a presentation to learn more—perhaps invite Ed Beeson to meeting.
- Interested in continuing to expand program throughout city.
- Would like to bring this to Mayor for support, including funding.
- Would like to get some measurements to show impact.

- Arts Commission at Port—work with them is going well; excited by success of City of Music and are interested in incorporating music into more of projects; have vision to create “curb to gate” experiences but need to work on getting funding for music components
- Opportunity to tour airport?—Kate to get date to commissioners
- Sub Pop opening store at Airport—Will be located in current Explore Northwest store; anticipate opening in April or May; Jimmy Hendrix installation is most photographed location in SeaTac, excited about upcoming Nirvana exhibit; creating a “hub” of music in airport with signage and performance space; store is 1700 square feet, store willing to help promote City of Music; will carry other regional labels, bands; will sell a range of merchandise

#### **City of Music Enterprise**

- No update at this time.

#### **Waterfront Development**

- A task force for Waterfront Pier 48 has been created.
- Consultant has been engaged to study and produce report/recommendations.
- Mayor has created an office of the waterfront to work on all issues; will engage with.
- Last meeting it was clear that the development was going towards a more general space that could accommodate many different uses but none particularly well. Have recommended that instead they focus on doing one type of development well; a music venue is a good opportunity.
- May again have a possibility of working with Leavitt Pavilions. Will continue to explore.

#### **Musicians Priority Load Zones**

- Loading zones will serve four locations: High Dive, Showbox at Market, Crocodile and Tula’s, Triple Door.
- Expect they will be installed soon.
- Will be press release.
- Considered a 6 month pilot project. If successful, additional venues can request. Currently there is not a formal application process. Venue must meet definition of live music venue as established by tax code.
- Could consider expanding to recording studios.

#### **City of Music Smartphone App**

- Have acquired development files – still considering pursuing the project.

#### **Dance Tax**

- Dance Tax was suspended until 2017. Rueven Carlyle has proposed legislation to permanently remove tax.
- Joan will send out Bill numbers so commissioners can contact Congress members.

#### **Youth + Community**

##### **The Creative Advantage**

- Continuing to work on how to access money from Families and Education Levy.
- Now is a good time to get concrete support from Mayor for admissions tax and other areas.
- Interested in putting information at Great Wheel, Chihuly Glass Garden that admissions tax pays for arts education.
- Mayor’s Youth Meet and Greet—did not end up being a good venue for interacting with Mayor. Very targeted outreach to teens. Was well-attended. Presence good for showing how engaged this group is.

### **Career Day**

- Event is April 10 at EMP
- John Richards interviewing Adam Zacks for keynote.
- Several panels and Vera is hosting hands-on session.
- Also holding mentoring session.
- Soon will put out call for organizations to table.
- EMP is hosting venue but still need sponsorship money. Jon will send out packet.

### **Internship Program**

- Meeting next week and will have more information after.

### **Summary of Action Items:**

- 1) **Joan** will send out Bill numbers concerning the dance tax so commissioners can contact Congress members.
- 2) **Jon** will send to commissioners the sponsorship packet for Career Day.

### **Future Music Commission Regular Meetings:**

- **Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**
- **Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**
- **Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014**
- **Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014**