

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Remote – Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Chieko Phillips (Facilitating meeting today on behalf of Co-Chairs), Rick Araluce, Jessica Caudle, Vivian Hua (joining but only able to listen), Holly Jacobson, Kayla DeMonte, Mikhael Mei Williams, Ebony Arunga, Vanessa Villalobos

Staff in attendance: royal alley-barnes, Erika Lindsay, Allie Lee, Kathy Hsieh, Maritza Rivera, Ashraf Hasham, Alex Rose

Guests: Sophia Fang (pending commissioner appointment), Kitty Wu (Music Commission Chair)

Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:07)

Round Robin Introductions

Approval of Minutes:

Vanessa moved to approve the commission minutes from February. Rick seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Director's Report

Briefing: royal alley-barnes, Maritza Rivera

- **Hiring of ARTS Recovery Manager** – Jenny Crooks has accepted the position of ARTS Recovery Manager. You may be familiar with Jenny in her current role as Project Manager on the Partnerships, Education, and Grants (PEG) team at ARTS. Jenny can be reached at Jenny.Crooks@seattle.gov
- **Return to Office** – The administration is looking to a return to office for all departments. Starting 3/16 we will start transitioning to a return to office. There will be hybrid work opportunities for staff, and we are being cognizant of time wealth. The office would like to set 6/1 as an implementation date for SAC to start considering in-person meetings (we will re-evaluate the plausibility closer to that date).
- **4/1 Retreat Facilitator Budget** – The office can provide \$750 - \$1,000 for a facilitator.
- **Council Reappointments** - Yeggy and Chieko's Council seat reappointments will be confirmed at the 3/25 Council Committee meeting.
- **Generational Wealth Initiative RFP** – [Sharing a link](#) to the 2nd RFP for the BIPOC Generational Wealth Initiative. This one is focused on building an inventory of existing City programs, services, and resources, and then working with City staff and community members to assess the impact of these programs. The deadline for this one is March 16, with a timeline of roughly May -

November. The budget is \$100,000, with the assumption that consultants will include a plan for language access and paid community participation. <https://consultants.seattle.gov/index.php?s=DON>

- We are waiting to hear on budget process from the City Budget Office and will reach out to SAC to weigh in soon.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- The SAC asked if the SAC retreat can happen in-person since the office is returning to office.
 - Making an assessment this week. However as mentioned earlier, the office would like to set 6/1 as an implementation date for SAC to start considering in-person meetings, as the office is in the midst of a return to office process and staff need time to settle in first.
- The SAC asked if the Mayor's transition committees are still meeting.
 - Transition committees are no longer meeting. Recommendations have been made by the committees and are being considered by the Mayor. The Mayor was planning on a share out.

Co-Chairs Report

Briefing: Chieko Phillips (on behalf of Co-Chairs)

- **Recruitment Next Steps** – Thank you commissioners for e-votes; 6 candidate packets have been sent to CM Morales for Council seat consideration, of which 3 will be selected to be presented at the Neighborhoods, Education, Civil Rights, and Culture Committee for voting. Once approved at the committee, they will go to Full Council be confirmed/appointed. The Mayor's Office is also starting to review names.
 - There are 6 remaining applicants from the short list who didn't make it to the final round. We need to notify that they weren't selected for this round. Next year do we want to start from scratch or keep these 6 folks on a roster for consideration?
 - The majority of SAC agreed to keep them on a roster for future consideration.
 - The SAC would like indicated in the notification that the ultimate decision is up to the elected, but we want to keep them on a roster.
 - The SAC would like them to consider committee participation as community advisors
 - While the SAC will reconsider their applications, they think it is good to have an opportunity for folks to reapply – to keep a refresh on prospective candidates.
- **Creating SAC Gmail Account** – SAC is confused about who is holding what documents and having to go through the City all the time for records and would like to have their own repository of notes for continuity and to have more clarity as new folks come on. SAC proposes to create a Gmail account to drop files into, for future co-chairs to have access to, and to collaborate in real time.
 - ARTS will look into issues around public disclosure in relation to creating a Gmail account and provide a one pager/orientation at the retreat. ARTS will also prepare an orientation on responsibilities and roles of the SAC and ARTS.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- The SAC asked the recruitment panel (Chieko, Holly, Kayla) about broad takeaways from the recruitment process.
 - It was good to hear voices from all over the city.
 - There was not a lot of parity among applications from those who nominated others and those who self-nominated.

Sound Transit 3 Advocacy

Briefing: Chieko Phillips

Members of FED have been involved in community processes of the Sound Transit 3 plan. Sound Transit is currently in a community engagement period for the West Seattle and Ballard Link extension, and the public comment period on their draft environmental impact statement closes on 4/28. Issues/asks:

- Communication around station and route planning has been convoluted and not transparent; youth have not been engaged or elevated; more engagement is needed historically impacted areas like CID; need to build in mitigation measures on communities of color; Sound Transit has not been filling ground floor spaces of their stations where cultural activities could happen; Seattle Center campus is asking the Mayor to look at preferred alignment route for station as there may be adverse impacts to arts orgs at Seattle Center.
- Chieko will send out a briefing for folks to reference. FED meeting is next Tuesday in case Commissioners wish to learn more. Commissioners are encouraged to participate in the public commenting process.
- Ebony is drafting an advocacy letter on this and can share with Commissioners.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- SAC asked if public commenting should be on behalf of SAC or as individuals.
 - Chieko responded on behalf of SAC would be great.
- Kitty has offered to share this advocacy opportunity with the Music Commission.

4/1 Retreat Preparation

Briefing: Chieko Phillips

- Chieko shared the workplan and priority areas from last year's retreat. Previous committee workplans can also be shared.
- The SAC suggested establishing priorities that incorporate committee priorities.
- The SAC suggested to the need to address communication – SAC is not just connected to the priorities of the office and there needs to be a guiding principle that ties in everything. We need to think about who is delivering the message. We need to think about communication with the office, with each other, and with community.

- The SAC would like to think about future new commissioners and being able to advocate for SAC better. Felt that this year we didn't have great visual resources to market new commissioners.
- ARTS staff can present on the following topics – roles and responsibilities of SAC and ARTS; public disclosure request process; SAC recruitment process; communication process; 2022 budget priorities
- The SAC would like to know what ARTS needs from SAC.
 - Budget process engagement
 - Communication to constituencies
- Committee Co-Chairs will share out on draft priorities/work plans and provide a general description of what the committee does.
 - Make sure to include Youth + Community Committee of the Music Commission
 - The SAC wants to get a good baseline of what the Commission's perimeters and focus are to understand how committees can work better.
 - The SAC wants to know who is on each committee, how people get involved, and who holds information about each committee
 - The SAC proposes having committee report-outs at the beginning of meetings
 - The SAC would like to have break out spaces for committees before share outs – need time for committees to reconvene and get grounded
- The SAC would like to discuss how committees are structured – core membership of committees and building strength of committees
 - Currently there is no membership terminus on committees; what should be the specific number of members?
- The SAC would like to review the Commission terms roster and consider staggering terms
- The SAC thinks improvement of SAC wellness should be one of the goals of the retreat

Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.