



## SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Jeff Benesi, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa (phone), Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Terri Hiroshima (Co-Chair), Jescelle Major, Dr. Quinton Morris (phone), Vivian Phillips (Co-Chair), Tracy Rector, S. Surface (phone), and Sarah Wilke

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Irene Gomez, Amber Rose Jimenez, and Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar of the Office of Arts & Culture

Guests: Ebony Atieno Arunga, Project Manager at Shunpike

### **Call to Order**

Vivian Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people. Phillips also stated that the SAC centers all its work within a racial equity lens.

### **Approval of the September Minutes**

Cassie Chinn moved to approve the September Arts Commission meeting minutes. Juan Alonso-Rodriguez seconded the motion. All present approved.

### **Artists of Color Expo & Symposium (ACES) Presentation: Ebony Atieno Arunga**

Priya Frank introduced Ebony Atieno Arunga, an organizer of the [Artists of Color Expo & Symposium](#) (ACES) event on Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. As part of ACES, the Office of Arts & Culture's [smART Ventures program](#) is sponsoring mini-grants of up to \$1000 to participating artists. The smART Ventures program aims to widen arts and culture participation, particularly for under-represented and marginalized communities, and close gaps in access to resources and opportunities for communities who have been under-resourced and under served as a result of (but not limited to these identities): race, gender, class, ability, sexual orientation, country of birth, age, and religion. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to receive one-on-one arts business consulting via quick, 15-to-30 minute sessions with some of the most important people and organizations to know as an artist working in Washington State and the Greater Seattle Area. RSVP to ACES online through [artistsofcolorexpo.org](#).

### **CityArtist Funding Program**

Irene Gomez, Project Manager at ARTS, described the programmatic goals and selection process for the CityArtist Funding Program, an annual project-based funding program that supports work by individual artists based in Seattle. The 2018 cycle accepted proposals in Literary (except Playwriting), Media/Film and Visual Arts. Request amounts are up to \$8,000, though awards may be less than requested amount based on overall ranking. ARTS Impact & Assessment Manager, Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar, previewed demographic information collected from the program; Commissioners expressed interest in viewing



consistent data about ARTS program participants to better understand strategy and impact, and expressed interest for the opportunity to hear from staff at the beginning of a program or funding project.

**Motion:** Tracy Record motioned to approve the 2018 City Artist Funding Program selection, which includes 32 project awards, totaling \$165,379. Jonathan Cunningham seconded the motion. All present approved.

### **Arts Awards Recommendation**

Community Development & Outreach (CDO) members shared the recommendation to the Arts Commission to assess the name of the Mayor's Arts awards, to re-assess the intention of the program, and reassess the structure, format and process based on that re-assessment and vision. After thoughtful discussion by Arts Commissioners, who discussed the potential names "City of Seattle Arts Awards" and "Seattle Arts Awards," and the meaningful distinction that comes with the "Mayor's Arts Awards" name, the SAC requested a more specific recommendation from members of the CDO. Specifically, the Commission would like the CDO to utilize feedback from the community to inform any official recommendations to change aspects of the MAA program.

### **Facilities & Economic Development Committee (FED) Report**

Cassie Chinn invited everyone to attend Square Feet Seattle on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-8pm, held at the King Street Station 3<sup>rd</sup> floor gallery space. Members of the Facilities & Economic Development Committee have collaborated with Cultural Space Liaison Matthew Richter to plan and organize the SFS event over the past several months.

The event will feature a keynote from Moy Eng, Executive Director at the Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST), and include local panelists like FED member Sam Farazzaino from Equinox Studios, and Cecil Hansen of Duwamish Longhouse, amid breakout presentations from organizations like El Centro de la Raza, Capitol Hill Housing, and the Artist Coalition for Equitable Development. Attendees will have an opportunity to collectively build an idea for space affordability that ARTS could fund, with a competitive discussion and selection process that results in one idea getting funded, up to \$10K.

### **Youth & Communities Committee (Y+C) Report**

The joint Youth & Communities Committee is continuing to build relationships and common goals between the Music Commission and Arts Commission representatives, and look forward to the upcoming Racial Equity Training session on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is also strategizing ways to build stronger alignment between members of the committee and are considering ways to engage with young people in the work; several programs like Career Day Expansion, Roadshows, and the City of Music Internship program all have opportunities to increase youth access and engagement.

### **Chair Report**

Commission Members Cassie Chinn, Priya Frank and Juan Alonso-Rodriguez met with a Brazilian Delegation convened through the World Affairs Council on September 28, and spoke on a range of



strategic and programmatic issues related to the Office of Arts & Culture. On a related note, Commissioners historically build relationships with City Councilmembers in part, through individual meetings, which will kick off in early 2018. An announcement was shared about Terri Hiroshima taking the reins of Chair for the Seattle Arts Commission during the 2018 calendar year.

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will have a racial equity training facilitated by Diana Falchuk and Lara Davis. Immediately following the training, Commissioners requested a mixer for members attending the training, and also ARTS staff members.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:30.**