



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2018

Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Commissioners present: Jeff Benesi, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Terri Hiroshima (Chair), Jescelle Major, Vivian Phillips, Tracy Rector, Ayako Shapiro, S. Surface, Sarah Wilke, Sharon Nyree Williams

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Amber Rose Jimenez, Jenny Crooks, and Erika Lindsay

Call to Order

Vivian Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on Indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people.

Approval of the November Minutes

Cassie moved to approve the November SAC meeting minutes. Dawn seconded the motion. All present approved.

King Street Station Feedback

Seattle Arts Commissioners reviewed the draft of the King Street Station report that detailed the feedback received from racially diverse community members across Seattle over the course of nearly two years, and received a presentation and overview from Erika Lindsay, Communications Manager on the next steps for release. Members offered feedback on how to organize and strengthen aspects of the plan, and were generally in support of the work thus far. Electronic copies were distributed in advance of the meeting for review; if Commissioners have additional feedback, they are directed to contact Erika.

Neighborhood & Community Arts and Arts in Parks

ARTS Project Manager Jenny Crooks shared an update and requested action to approve the Neighborhood and Community Arts Program funding, and the Arts in Parks program Funding from Seattle Arts Commissioners.

The Office of Arts & Culture's Neighborhood & Community Arts (NCA) Program supports creativity at a grassroots level, making investments in dozens of festivals and community cultural projects. This program supports neighborhood arts councils and community-based groups that have established a track record for producing recurring festivals or events that promote arts and cultural participation, celebrate our diversity, build community connections, and enhance the visibility of neighborhoods through arts and culture.

The Arts in Parks Program is an opportunity for the city to invest in the vibrant cultural work being done in and by diverse communities throughout Seattle. This program supports neighborhood arts councils, community-based groups, and individual artists that are seeking to activate eligible Seattle Parks in



underserved and economically constrained areas of the city with new and established festivals or events that promote arts and cultural participation, celebrate our diversity, build community connections, and activate parks through arts and culture while connecting with underserved communities including low-income, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color.

The Commission reviewed the funding recommendations for twenty groups that are seeking a two-year grant allocation for \$1,200 per year (all awards offer the same two-year allocation) from the Neighborhood and Community Arts Program; they also reviewed the funding recommendations for thirty-one applicants representing communities and neighborhood parts across Seattle for the Arts in Parks grant program, which features a one-year grant based on a tiered funding model, with awards ranging from \$1,200 to \$7,200.

Sarah Wilke motioned to approve the Arts & Parks funding program recommendations and the Neighborhood & Community Arts funding program recommendations. Tracy Rector seconded the motion. All present approved.

Facilities & Economic Development Committee

Cassie Chinn provided an update on the expanding efforts of the Facilities and Economic Development Committee, and noted our efforts to schedule a retreat in February to align capacity around specific bodies of work that is evolving at ARTS related to cultural space and equitable development. Specifically, Cassie mentioned the opportunity to apply a Race and Social Justice lens to the development of a potential Preservation Development Authority model; more will be shared with SAC in the coming months.

Youth & Communities Committee

Tracy Rector provided an update on the progress toward producing a video that will detail the work of the Youth & Communities projects and impacts; they have just hired a videographer and are now planning to recruit a representative from the Music and Arts Commissions to participate in the video. Members wish to further explore alignment opportunities between the Music Commission and the Arts Commission.

Chair Report

Vivian Phillips presented a gift of appreciation to Commissioner Jeff Benesi for his three year term on the Seattle Arts Commission, which featured an artwork by local glass artist Jonathan Clarren. Phillips and members of the Commission thanked Benesi for his leadership.

A brief discussion on the recent Racial Equity Session I with SAC and Music Commissioners, Committee members and staff was held, with comments expressing a desire to have more time in small group discussions; a desire for fewer activities and deeper engagement in the activities selected; and thanks to the facilitators Diana Falchuk and Lara Davis for managing the racially diverse group. An inquiry about how we can better address the power dynamics of the group—those that have positional, cultural and economic power over others in the group—was directed at staff to ensure that we strategically acknowledge them in the future. An example was shared about the vulnerability of black women sharing stories of economic impacts and oppressions, while white people mostly shared abstractions and alluded



to conceptual theories of race or class—with little direction or accountability to move into a space of deeper reflection.

The Racial Equity Session II will take place in early January; Amber Rose will share an updated invitation for the time, which will include lunch and continue to be facilitated by Diana and Lara.

Director's Report

On behalf of ARTS staff, Randy Engstrom presented Vivian Phillips with a gift of appreciation for her leadership as Chair of the Seattle Arts Commission for a consecutive 3-year tenure.

Executive Session

At the request of Commission Chair Vivian Phillips, SAC concluded with a closed Executive Session.