



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

City Hall, Room 370

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Terri Hiroshima (Co-Chair), Ana Lester, Vivian Phillips (Co-Chair), Tracy Rector, S. Surface (phone), Sharon Williams

Staff in attendance: Randy Engstrom, Irene Gomez, Amber Rose Jimenez, and Ruri Yampolsky of the Office of Arts & Culture

Guests: Claudia Luna, Jescelle Major

Excused Absences: Cassie Chinn, Jeff Benesi, Quinton Morris

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. Phillips also stated that the SAC centers all its work within a racial equity lens. The Commission took a moment of silence.

Approval of the June Minutes

Tracy Rector moved to approve the June Arts Commission meeting minutes. Jonathan Cunningham seconded the motion. All present approved.

Civic Poet Presentation: Claudia Castro Luna

Claudia Castro shared her experience as the City's inaugural Civic Poet, including notable accomplishments like welcoming community poems in Spanish, Arabic and Japanese; collaboration with CM Herbold, which resulted in local poets presenting poems during the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development & Arts (CRUEDA) Council Committee meetings, and the creation of a digital map featuring place-based poems and photographs across Seattle. Castro shared of the many partnerships, collaborations and opportunities she created to build new connections to poetry across the arts and cultural community, and thanked ARTS staff for their partnership in realizing her vision.

Civic Poet Selection: 2017-19

Irene Gomez introduced the process for selecting the 2017-2019 Civic Poet, and mentioned that Claudia Castro joined the panel as a nonvoting interview observer. The panel recommends Anastacia Tolbert as the next Civic poet for her depth of experience as an established author and Poet in Residence at Hugo House, and her tireless commitment to art, racial equity, and making poetry accessible to all people.

Jonathan Cunningham motioned to approve Anastacia Tolbert as the 2017-2019 poet. Priya Frank seconded the motion. All in favor approved.



MAA

Priya presented the Mayor's Arts Award (MAA) finalists for each category, and offered a clarification about the inclusion of a proclamation for a member of the community. The process for this year's MAA included a panel featuring members of the Arts Commission and the Community Development and Outreach Committee, who reviewed nominations and selected finalists; those finalists for each category were shared with the Mayor's office for the final decision.

The MAA is celebrating its 15th year, so the Commission and staff will revisit the vision and goal for the award this fall. Commissioners inquired about demographics for nominees and the possibility to rename the awards the City of Seattle Arts Awards, or the Civic Arts Award; Commissioners also reflected that in future discussions of MAA, they would like to understand the goal of programs, review panel composition and the racial and ethnic demographics of program participants or nominees. Staff shared that the nomination form and structure for the award is limited in its data collection, since people nominating community members for awards may not know the demographic or racial information requested on the form. The topic will be revisited as staff and Commissioners plan for future awards celebrations and processes.

BorderLands at King Street Station

Ruri shared information about the upcoming, noncommercial BorderLands art exhibition that ARTS staff are curating and producing this summer at King Street Station, which centers on themes of belonging and resistance, and which opens on August 3, 2017. ARTS Curator Deborah Paine is retiring this fall, so BorderLands will be her final show. Programming will include performances, and the space will be open during extended hours during the Seattle Art Fair weekend, and then on Fridays from 11am-2pm, Saturdays from 12pm-6pm, and Sundays from 11am-2pm, through October. The space will also open on First Thursdays, on September 7th and October 5th from 5-8pm.

Public Art Deaccession

Public Art Director Ruri Yampolsky presented artworks recently proposed for deaccession, at the recommendation of the Public Art Advisory Committee, and gave an overview of each of the selected works. While many artists were contacted with an offer of returning the artworks, the Endless Gate work will be offered to a municipal entity.

Steve Galatro motioned to approve the PAAC recommendation to deaccession the public artworks: *Dreaming in Color*; *The Endless Gate*; *Meadowbrook Pond*; *If That's All There Is My Friend, Then Let's Keep Dancing*; *Ed Ted*; and *Untitled Kiosks*. The motion was seconded by Juan Alonso-Rodriguez. All approved.

Youth & Communities Report

The Committee reflected on the 3rd annual Music Career Day, and considered how to build a more racially diverse event in the future. Staff transitions during the planning months, alongside the committee's efforts toward greater internal cohesion were referenced as context for this year's event.



Facilities and Economic Development Committee Report

Pottery NW representatives shared their case for support with the FED, since their organization may be relocated due to the Key Arena redevelopment project. FED members encouraged Pottery NW to connect with other Seattle Center stakeholders who may also be impacted by the redevelopment, to build a common cause; SAC would consider submitting a general letter of support on behalf of all those arts and cultural organizations affected, not just a singular organization. The Committee had not yet received an update from the representatives. Square Feet Seattle 2017 will be held at King Street Station in October. FED will share out information about ongoing neighborhood parking changes proposed in Capitol Hill via email.

Directors Report

Randy Engstrom, who previewed upcoming Key Arena redevelopment discussion items and admissions tax revenue impacts, along with a brief update on the Creative Equity Fund, a partnership between ARTS, ArtsFund, Seattle Foundation and local funders. Jonathan Cunningham is the Seattle Foundation lead for the Fund, which will resource strategies to address racial inequity across the region. Jonathan shared that the funding group is in the planning process for co-designing the fund structure and asked Commissioners to share feedback or ideas for who to consider inviting into those discussions.

Commissioners encouraged one another to return ballots by the August 1st King County Primary deadline.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35.