



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Seattle City Hall, Room L280

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Terri Hiroshima, Mari Horita, Jescelle Major, Quinton Morris, Ayako Shapiro, Sharon Williams and Sarah Wilke

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Amber Rose Jimenez of ARTS; Evan Philip of the Mayor's Office

Excused Absences: Vivian Phillips and Ashraf Hasham

Call to Order

Priya Frank called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on Indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people.

Approval of the May Minutes

Motion: Dawn moved to approve the May meeting minutes. Jonathan seconded the motion. All present approved.

Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)

Steve Galatro shared an update about a new SPU public call for portable 2-D artworks, which will feature a team of youth trained in curation as the selection panelists overseeing the decision-making process. Commissioners inquired about the ages of youth, how they are selected to serve in this opportunity, and when the process will be underway—staff will share more information as it is determined. Additionally, Co-Chairs Galatro and Juan Alonso-Rodriguez are planning to revisit and adapt the notes from the PAAC retreat in February to guide visioning for public art in Seattle onward.

King Street Station

S. Surface provided an overview of the King Street Station Advisory Committee planning efforts and invited Commissioner feedback on its composition and structure, which currently is anticipated to feature 16-20 individuals representing various identities and communities across the region. The King Street Station space will feature opportunities to build strong community connections and invite communities to convene and program within the space. While the process is not entirely formalized, there is an intention to feature an open public application process and targeted outreach for recruiting membership to the KSS Advisory Committee; Commissioners could potentially have one or two dedicated seats, as well as dedicated seats for the Chinatown-International District and Pioneer Square communities.

Ongoing considerations for formalizing protocol on conflicts of interest, committee service expectations, stipends to compensate for service, and outreach efforts are underway. Inquiries about intergenerational



stakeholders, both to avoid tokenizing youth voice and also to expand participation beyond ‘working arts professionals,’ was discussed along with a consideration to include a dedicated youth seat (for an individual aged between 16 and 24 years old). Commissioners are invited to send feedback about the advisory committee directly to S. Surface or Calandra Childers.

Cultural Investments Committee

Terri Hiroshima presented an overview of the first Cultural Investments Committee meeting, which included Commissioners and various ARTS staff. Dawn Chirwa agreed to co-chair the committee along with Vivian Phillips. The meeting focused on the possible roles that the Arts Commission could play within this committee, as advisors, ambassadors, and advocates, and in centering the shared commitment to racial equity. The next meeting is planned for June 27th though the overall meeting schedule is not yet determined. Commissioners are reminded that Committee participation is a requirement of serving on the Arts Commission, and encouraged to visit the FED, PAAC or CI Committees over the summertime.

Chair Report

Terri Hiroshima presented an overview of the Executive Committee’s recent planning efforts for creating a strategic recruitment matrix for new commissioners and community representatives, informed by the overall goals of the Commission and its committees. Given the Commission’s purpose to serve as policy advisors to the Mayor, City Council and Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, and the growing bodies of work around creative economies, youth homelessness, arts education, cultural investments, and cultural space, candidates who can serve as multipliers across issues and sectors, institutions and areas of expertise.

Hiroshima noted the varying intersecting identities within our regional arts & cultural communities and provided examples of previous tactics for recruitment that centered on locating racially diverse candidates; candidates who are working artists; candidates who represent arts funding institutions, etc. Commissioners discussed the need to center candidates who have a commitment to and practice of racial equity, especially as the SAC embraces its practice of advocacy and ambassadorship within the broader community. Members were invited to share feedback on qualities or characteristics for the matrix, along with any individual names for consideration. Three Commission seats will be vacant in January 2019.

Directors Report

Randy Engstrom thanked the Commission for submitting the annual budget letter to the Mayor’s Office. As ARTS continues to steward resources toward cultural investments, cultural spaces, career connected learning and creative economies, arts education, and public art, it is an exciting time for the Office and the Arts Commission to ask, “How can we do better? What should we do differently?”