



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 11th, 2018

Seattle City Hall, Room L280

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Vivian Phillips, Sarah Wilke, Sharon Nyree Williams, Mari Horita

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Jenny Ku, and Rick Reyes

Excused Absences: Quinton Morris, Ashraf Hasham, Terri Hiroshima, and Nilofer Rajpurkar

Call to Order

Priya Frank called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on Indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people.

Motion: There was no motion to approve last month's minutes. Rick and Randy mentioned that the document still needs to be found due to a handoff that didn't occur during Rick's transition into the Arts Commission coordinator roll. Rick will follow up with the commission during the October meeting.

Public Comment: No Comments

Mayor's Arts Awards Debrief

Jenny Ku (Event Planner and lead on the Mayor's Arts Award planning) was in attendance to lead a discussion around how the Mayor's Arts Awards went.

- Calandra wanted feedback around how we had no categories and how recipients were referred to as finalists and not winners
 - The commission expressed their enjoyment over how there were no categories. They stated that the ceremony was short and sweet and that all the speeches were great.
- Jenny and Calandra wanted more information on how people liked the indoor element of the celebration
 - Commissioners have heard from several people that indoors was amazing and many agreed.
 - Some commissioners stated that they preferred the ceremony outdoors due to the ease of flow. Jenny explains how the call to move the ceremony inside had to be made the night before when the weather was looking like it was going to be terrible.
 - Commissioners enjoyed the facebook live and mentioned that they streamed it online
 - Commissioners overall enjoyed it inside but wondered what it would look like to have a more equitable distribution of space in terms of staging. Some recommended looking at where we could have it indoors that would also allow us to support more partnerships we have around Seattle Center such as MoPop.
 - Everyone agrees that Chihuly is always an asset.



- Everyone agreed that Michelle's painting was great

Yəhaw' Update

Calandra led the yəhaw' update. The commission meeting in November will be Commission business for half the meeting and an extended update where the curators, staff, and commission will come together to hear directly from curators what they've been doing. As a preview, Calandra mentions that the curators have expanded projects to 15 cities spreading from Tacoma to Bellingham with over 250 artists involved.

Rick mentions that he will send out an updated date and time for this meeting.

Calandra also mentions the advisory body which may provide opportunities for cross collaboration between the Commission and the King Street Station move and curation. Cassie asks about neighborhood response to the work being done. Calandra will ask Surface about more specifics.

PAAC Update

PAAC hasn't met since the July meeting but that since that meeting, council approved a revision to the 1% for art program which eliminates the expiration of funds. PAAC sees this as a positive change.

Seattle was also selected as the Bloomberg Public Art grant. The proposal was for *Central District: Growing Home*. Updates should come this fall as the three winners are selected. PAAC members shout out Liz and Maija who have been working extremely hard on this grant.

PAAC is developing standard evaluation criteria for Public Art Projects which was one of the results of the PAAC retreat. There is a large need for consistent criteria that takes into account the baggage the people come in with while deciding on public art. Research came from national best-practices and this month they were able to see a first draft of the evaluative criteria.

Steve and Juan are working together to articulate a larger vision for Public Art. This includes expanding from Public Art to Public Art and Culture thinking largely about how we can change the ways public benefits from creative experiences. They also plan on discussing private sector collaborations to get stronger paths for artists to get bigger projects.

There are many opportunities for collaborations between Cultural Investments. Randy also adds that there would be many benefits to thinking about how the FED can interact with these projects.

Cultural Investments

Cultural Investments (CI) is also excited for greater collaboration between CI and PAAC. CI has currently had three meetings to date and has spent a portion of them utilizing ARTS staff to explain granting programs and their broad spectrums to the CI sub-committee. Using that info, the CI sub-committee hopes to explore the impact that grants are having on the community.

During the last meeting, the CI looked at the growth of ArtsFund and how we can form greater relationships with funding organizations to measure impact.



They've also explored the Mayor's priorities and looked at how arts can be in service to those while still retaining its own sense of importance.

They will discuss future leadership as well given that Vivian is coming towards the end of her term on the Arts Commission.

Chair Report

Priya gave the chair report in lieu of Terri who was absent. Priya started off mentioning the budget response letter which will be due 15 days from when the Mayor delivers the budget (9/24). It is noted that internal deadlines would be helpful due to the busy schedules of members on the Arts Commissions. Rick and Randy will coordinate this.

Priya brought up the matrix and the goal of the matrix. The hope is that the commission can use the matrix to identify major gaps and what we need with new commission members. There will be two seats opening in January of next year. Suggestions for names will take place during the next EC meeting which will take place in person instead of over conference call. The categories are discussed and deliberation was added around including equity leadership, volunteer + board, and homelessness experience in the descriptors.

Directors Report

Randy brings up that we will be inviting top MAA recipients to the meetings to discuss what they're working on and how the commission could be of support to them. Noting the tension between not wanting to burden artists but also wanting artists in the room. To ensure this is being addressed, artists attending will receive compensation and parking for coming to meetings.

MAPC is coming September 27-28. Elected officials from Boston area will be visiting and having conversations about embedding equity and arts policy at the governmental level. Randy thanks Cassie for being a presenter. The first day will take place at the Wing. The second day will take place at Washington Hall.

Randy thanks SAM for hosting NAMPC's (November 9-12) opening party.

Randy thanks Sarah and Ashraf for trying to continue efforts around a redevelopment project and being in the policy conversations around the project.

The budget was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.