



**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**  
Minutes  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room

Nametags: Quinton Morris, Nilofer, Chieko, Ashraf

**Commissioners present:** Terri Hiroshima, Priya Frank, Dawn Chirwa, Chieko Phillips, Steve Galatro, Cassie Chinn, Vivian Phillips, Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Sarah Wilke, Jescelle Major, Ashraf Hasham, Nilofer Rajpurkar

**Staff in attendance:** Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Rick Reyes, S. Surface

**Excused Absences:**

**Guests:** Dr. Raymond Tymas-Jones, Vanessa Villalobos

**Call to Order & Introduction**

**Approval of Minutes:** Juan moves to approve Dawn seconds the approval of minutes All move to approve minutes

**Public Comment:** No Comments

**Guest Conversation**

**Briefing:** Dr. Raymond Tymas-Jones

Vivian introduces Dr. Raymond Tymas-Jones as the new president of Cornish College. Dr. Tymas-Jones is excited about the possibility of working with the Arts Commission and points out that of all the cities he's resided, Seattle is the first with a dedicated commission to the arts that he's seen. Dr. Tymas-Jones lists the following as priorities:

- Building Cornish to be a successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century Institution
- Moving artists forward not only in their craft but also as impactful citizens in Seattle's current climate
- Being apart of a community of problem solvers
- Connect artists to communities beyond venues (with community, neighborhoods, other institutions)

**SAC Questions / Comments**

- The Commission is interested in specific ideas on how to better formalize relationships between policy advisory bodies and institutions of higher education
  - o Dr. Tymas-Jones states the need for a new strategic plan within the next 18 months which he would like to be created by Cornish Constituents *and* the community



- Meeting with community members to connect the parts / blind spots
- Interested in creating an academic track that supports the initiative of students moving into community
- The commission recommended to Dr. Tymas-Jones to reach out to smaller arts organizations

### **PDA Update**

**Briefing:** Cassie Chinn

Cassie recognizes the FED for the initial discussion which helped provide a base for the questions asked in the Racial Equity Toolkits which happened over late-October and early-November. The conversations for the PDA began with an interrogation of underlying values which informed smaller group discussions around governance, financial models, and programs/projects. High level themes from the RETs will be taken and integrated during 2019 when, hopefully, more work will be put towards greater study of the impacts of a PDA.

### **SAC Questions / Comments:**

- The commission is curious about what *further study* means and whether that comes with additional resources to support the project?
  - It is acknowledged that there is a need to evaluate staff capacity and that that will happen towards the end of the year and early next year within the context of this project alongside looking at resources for what community recommended during the REY process.
- What models are there outside of bonding for a PDA?
  - There has been a core question around whether to bond. There are also some legality questions around what the bonded money can go towards. Other conversations looked at the role of philanthropy around people who want to invest in mitigating displacement, private equity, and how to leverage all of these to deal with opportunity zones.
  - Ultimately, we're trying to figure out how the PDA could be a tool for other artists to build capacity.

### **Holiday Party Update**

**Briefing:** Rick, Calandra, and Randy

### **Matrix Discussion**

**Briefing:** Priya, Terri, and Steve

Terri explains the process of new commission member selection and the various bodies that have to look over the initial recommendations put forward by the Executive Council. Currently, the EC are working on an assignment to check in with 7 folx around interest and capacity.

The hope is that the structure provided by the EC will help make a strong case for any candidate that is moved forward to the Mayor and/or City Council.



### Director's Report

**Briefing:** Randy

- Randy thanks Vivian and Priya for their help with the NAMM Conference two weekends ago which had over 500 artists and arts administrators at SAM.
- Randy is currently working on developing a Racial Equity and Arts Development Training in Cleveland that will be traveling around the country. This is an opportunity to get arts communities on the same page around Racial Equity and the arts.
- 12/11 is the date of the holiday party: There will be a commission meeting from 4-5 and party from 5-7. Feel free to bring friends and family.
- The first day at King Street Station is slated for Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Viaduct Party will be Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The Budget was passed
  - o During this process, questions around how to make council clear about the work of the Arts Commission was made a priority and we will be exploring this for future interactions with council.
- Dr. Nguyen-Akbar is working with The Evan's School on a creative economy research project. If anyone is interested in scoping this out – let Randy know.
  - o Cassie recommends folding this into the FED.

### Chair Report

**Briefing:** Terri

There will be updates next month around a vice chair.

### yəhaw' at King Street Station Presentation