



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Seattle City Hall, Room L280

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Cassie Chinn (by phone), Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham (by phone), Terri Hiroshima, Quinton Morris, Vivian Phillips, Ayako Shapiro, S. Surface, and Sarah Wilke

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Lara Davis, Randy Engstrom, Kathy Hsieh, Amber Rose Jimenez, Jenny Frohwerk, Jenny Crooks, Kristi Woo of ARTS

Excused Absences: Tracy Rector, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Jescelle Major, Ashraf Hasham

Guests: Jen Song, Seattle Housing Authority and teaching artist Sumayya Diop

Call to Order

Terri Hiroshima 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 April Minutes

Motion: Surface moved to approve the April meeting minutes. Sarah seconded the motion. All present approved.

Seattle Housing Authority

Jen Song of Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) presented information about the arts programming underway at Yessler, and the vision for SHA's work in the community. Considering how people interact in ways that help define community, SHA considers physical public settings and creative engagement activities as having the potential to serve as backdrops for social relationships that bind people into a vibrant, healthy community. To foster these kinds of connections, SHA is integrating art in many forms as part of the redevelopment of Yesler.

Public Art Deaccessions

Public Art Director Ruri Yampolsky provided an overview of the recent April 24th Public Art Advisory Committee vote to deaccession two artwork projects: *Acrobat Constellation* by Timothy Siciliano and *Play Ray Plaza* by Vicki Scuri, due to the impending construction impacts of the Key Arena Redevelopment project.

Motion: Juan moved to approve the public art deaccessions for *Acrobat Constellation* by Timothy Siciliano and *Play Ray Plaza* by Vicki Scuri. Dawn seconded the motion. All approved.



Youth Programs Update

Arts Education Manager Lara Davis provided an overview of the programs under the purview of ARTS: the public-private partnership Creative Advantage, Creative Workforce Development in partnership with the Office of Film and Music, Social Impact Programming, and internal partnerships with Cultural Partnerships youth funding. Creative Advantage was forged through relationships built through Arts Commission advocacy five years ago. As a partnership between Seattle Public Schools, Seattle Foundation, teaching artists, and arts organizations, it reinvests in arts learning for all young people in Seattle. Lara also spoke of opportunities to provide connections for young people into internships, in addition to learning opportunities to understand how the arts could play a role in creating connections and opportunities for social impact by focusing on needs and aspects facing the lives of youth of color.

Cultural Partnerships

Grants Manager Kathy Hsieh and the Cultural Partnership staff, Jenny Crooks, Jenny Frohwerk, Irene Gomez and Kristi Woo presented a short video co-created by Digital Media Specialist Otts Bolisay and a snapshot of the collective impact of the Cultural Partnerships work in 2017. Notably, the presentation addressed support for organizations, youth, artists and community, including the total number of arts opportunities funded to support access to a broad range of artistic and cultural expressions in the City: 3,673. The video is featured on the ARTS website and is closed captioned when viewed on YouTube; the video was designed using animation and creative visuals so that additional languages could be featured in future editions.

The Cultural Partnerships team oversee community investments and build relationships with cultural partners: artists, teaching artists, social practice artists, collectives, groups, organizations and more. Their investments produce a hugely robust range of experiences and opportunities across the City of Seattle that span the spectrum of work across all disciplines, platforms, careers and stages of development. Local teaching artist Sumayya Diop joined the presentation to share the impact of ARTS youth arts investment, which has intersections to art and social practice in her work with youth. She shared a story of working with thirteen young women of color to share stories through song, dance and music and to strengthen relationships, leadership and self-advocacy across the youth.

Cultural Partnerships would like to collaborate with Seattle Arts Commissioners as thought partners in this work of using racial equity and intersectionality to vision for how arts & culture may flourish in the city.

Facilities & Equitable Development Committee

The Facilities & Economic Development Committee has voted to change their name to the Facilities & Equitable Development Committee as a formal recognition of the intentional shift to center racial equity in the work. The FED began to develop a glossary of terms to demystify the language, jargon, terms, and acronyms used in the field, and will receive an update on the PDA study underway via Framework Consulting during the May meeting.



Due to S. Surface recently accepting an offer to work at the Office of Arts & Culture as King Street Station Programming Lead, they are resigning from the Seattle Arts Commission effective immediately.

Cultural Investments Committee

Given the opportunity to align the Seattle Arts Commission and Cultural Partnerships staff over strategically and structurally advising on the impact of investments leveraged by the Office of Arts & Culture, a new Cultural Investments Committee will convene late this month, with Vivian Phillips as co-chair. The Committee will begin to explore the scope and purpose of the group, the challenges and opportunities, and the capacity needed to ensure the success of the partnership and will center a practice of racial equity and intersectionality.

Director Report

- The Mayor's Arts Awards will occur in August 2018, and a SAC selection panel will review nominations beginning in early July. Nominations for the 2018 MAA will feature an open call for applications, and the call will be shared via email, on ARTS website and social media.
- The annual Seattle Arts Commission budget letter to the Mayor's Office is due in May and the Executive Committee will take the lead on drafting the letter.