



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 9th, 2019
Panel Room, King Street Station

Commissioners present: Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Quinton Morris, Ashraf Hasham, Sarah Wilke, Cassie Chinn, Nilofer, Jonathan Cunningham, Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Sharon Nyree-Williams, Jescelle Major

Staff in attendance:

Guests: Scott Burk (Affordable Housing + Gallery Owner), Lydia Coblick, David Toledo (Vibrant Magazine), Jason (VERA), Ricky (VERA), Scott (Nightlife and Business Advocate, City of Seattle)

Call to Order & Introduction

Meeting called to order at 4:05 acknowledgement of Indigenous land and introductions for the guests

Approval of Minutes: Edit the date of the minutes, Jonathan motions to approve the March minutes. Juan seconds. Approved.

Ashraf moves to approve the commission retreat minutes, Sharon seconds. Approved.

Public Comment:

- David Toledo took over City Arts via Vibrant magazine using the same style. Wanted the Commission to be aware of what they're doing and that there is possibility to collaborate on stories. David also left resumes with Rick.
 - o Sharon asks whether David is interested in sitting on committees, David notes that he is.

Commissioner's Corner

Briefing: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez

- The SAC questions, how do we get your book? Juan responds that it is sold out.

SAC Questions / Comments:

Safety Boxes

Briefing: Ricky & Jason (VERA)

- This was started after the Oakland fires



- VERA was deemed the task to test this out at spaces where safety may not be the highest priority, to come up with a list of items, and to come up with an embedded program that could be replicable and utilized by many.
- This program has veered into VERA on your Block which is a direct outreach program where partnerships between community spaces and VERA lead way for a benefit show for these communities and as a way to test these safety kits.
- Jason and Ricky along with Scott and Matthew have led this conversation as it's grown.
- Jason and Ricky take the commission through the kit. The kit allows for greater accessibility while providing a level of safety. Kit was put together through meetings with SPD, Seattle Fire, and different community sites.
- Ricky goes into the specifics of the program. Roadblocks include how can we incentivize this so that folk at all levels feel comfortable and also how are people able to understand how to utilize what's in the kit.
 - o First: Develop safety pipeline more thoroughly through workshops and seminars for young folk who will be in these paid positions.
 - o Second: Conduct orientations with those event planners on site and other stakeholders throwing events / bring kits to them (specifically highlighting how to interact with security and police)
 - o Third: To incentivize, once you take the workshop at VERA, young people will receive stipends for being an ambassador for safety and quality assurance.
 - o Barriers: Why would DIY promoters want to put this on? Incentivize going to the workshop to get people to understand the importance.
- Timeline:
 - o Today – share out
 - o Currently in Stage of – Safety Curriculum Development (Now - June)
 - o Future – Test curriculum (June – August)
 - o Later – Press and outreach for a successful launch in August with a full launch in September

SAC Questions / Comments:

- How long will the orientations go for, asks the SAC? Ricky responds that they should be around 30 minutes to be available for those who are fulltime workers AND promoters.
- Randy commends the addressing of issues training for young folk, harm reduction, and safety. Ricky notes that this will be a living program and that continued support for the commission will be important.
- Scott notes that nightlife and community space stakeholders are excited and optimistic around this idea. Randy commends Scott for his work with harm reduction around overdoses and administering Narcan for security.
- The SAC questions what the ongoing funding source for this is? Ashraf notes that some of the funding will be from VERA but that they original program was funded from a finite source. Randy notes that there are many intersections.
- The SAC questions around how this as a *public safety* project should be publicly funded.



- The SAC questions whether there is support around liability. Ashraf mentions that they had talked to a legal counsel and that the big shift around this.
- The SAC asks why specifically VERA is getting involved with this and whether other venues are getting involved to spread the word/be locations for these? Ashraf notes VERA's in to the DIY community and the separation between the city doing this vs. a DIY space. In terms of outreach, Jason mentions that this is the hope down the road.
- Ashraf mentions that this information will all be open source with the hope that there can be something along the lines of a Safety Box grant program.
- The SAC questions that while looking at the budget, the costs seemed really low for what they're actually offering (student stipends, staff time, etc...)
- How many unsanctioned spaces are there in Seattle? Thy mentioned quite a few probably around 20+. The SAC recommends the importance of doing research.
- The SAC mentions the importance of reaching out to South King County as folx are getting priced out.
- The SAC mention's 4Culture's equipment grant.

FED Updates: Square Feet

Briefing: Cassie & Sarah

- The annual Square Feet event is coming up and many thanks to the office and the FED for planning and bring it about. It will be Sunday, April 28th (Keynote: Dr. Eugene Gus Newport) at the Wing Luke & Monday, April 29th (The interactive panel day which will start out with a panel discussion around community ownership in real estate) at King Street.
- There will be a large foam check challenge which will be an onsite challenge for different groups to come up with ideas
- There will also be smaller follow the leader breakout sessions to follow various leader in the POC real estate, development, and cultural space.

SAC Questions / Comments:

- The SAC questions who the audience would be to invite. Cassie notes that the setup for this program will address a wide range from small pop-up to large scale development in POC spaces.
- The SAC questions whether the commissioners should attend a specific event? Cassie notes that if folx are able, come to any of it. Sunday will be more policy, Monday will be an opportunity to connect with individuals.

Director's Report

Briefing: Randy Engstrom

- Randy thanks the commission for being at the retreat & for being back here the next week.
- The council presentation was interesting due to the OFM shift with our office and the day week after the retreat. Randy commends the drop of the men's ad-tax
- This was a good reminder around the budget letter which is due in May.



- Randy gives an update around the creative economy work with Vivian and recently Mytoan.
- The hope is by the end of the month there will be a clear framework and scope of work.
- There were 2700 people in the opening of this space with around 100 people a day since then.
- Most of the folx who were pushed through for the commission we will be engaging in committees
 - o Jonathan notes that it would be important to have the highly vetted list of names for folx to think about adding people to committees. Randy notes the music commission should also be considered.

Chair Report

Briefing: Priya Frank

- Priya shouts out Ashraf who will be staying on until around August / September for Tracy who will be coming back then for that last year of her term.
- Priya has received interest in getting on the commission.
- Ask the Women's Commission for their application process + possibly add more information on the webpage
- Today Priya, Randy, and Sharon got to meet with CRUEDA around their workplan for the year. Sharon notes how Vivian being in the room and seeing them at the table showed how monumental the work has been.
 - o CRUEDA expressed how impressed they were at our processes and systems
 - o Big Highlight: O'brien's interest in the Men's Sports Ad-Tax
 - o This felt like a good connection around building relationships w/ city council and how to do so.
- Priya thanks folxs for their work at the retreat. She encourages folx to continue to sus out priorities.
- Budget letter
 - o Cassie asks what the budget priorities especially around asking for money. We should get effort around the executive committee
 - o Jonathan asks if creative economy work will be connected or separate? Randy notes that it could be either.
 - o Include what would you do if you had more resources
- Is there any help around website development, etc. Just about every conversation is the use of a website. Center artists in what they're saying they need.

Adjournment