



**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**  
Minutes  
Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Panel Room, King Street Station

**Commissioners present:** Priya Frank, Jescelle Major, Dawn Chirwa, Steve Galatro, Chieko Phillips, Cassie Chinn, Ashraf Hasham, Jonathan Cunningham, Sarah Wilke

**Staff in attendance:** Allie Lee, Randy Engstrom, Calandra Childers, Rick Reyes

**Guests:** Emma Sullivan (Wing Luke) - Shadowing Cassie, Events Coordinator

**Call to Order & Introduction (4:09)**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Cassie moved to approve the minutes from April 2019. Steve seconded. Approved.

**Public Comment:** No Comment

**Square Feet Debrief**

**Briefing:** Chieko Phillips, Cassie Chinn

Cassie thanks everyone for their support and participating in Square Feet which happened in late-April. Highlights include:

- Gus Newport:
  - The Seattle Chanel video taped
  - Quotes:
    - “Called to have an integrated approach to know the depth of the work we have to do and why we have to work together”
    - “Storytelling is one of the greatest organizing tools there is”
    - “Love is the defining factor of building communities
- BASE Graduation
  - Two speakers spoke and there were graduation certificates
  - The new cohort joined in on the activities and interacted and networked
- Large Foam Check Challenge
  - A competition that has happened around \$10,000 that’s put towards the idea that comes out of this competition
  - This year the topics were community partnerships, blue sky, and community interaction
  - There were five ideas all included focusing on human connection and included:



- Creating a database of experienceable knowledge around owning, being in, and financing space (using storytelling) and a position to share it.
  - An art bus which provided an opportunity to create art
  - Compiling all the information around creative economy and ways that you could interact w/ culture into a book
  - The winner was a story truck grounded in the recognition of the Indigenous homeless population of Seattle and wrestling w/ that historical trauma and the homelessness crisis
- Breakout Sessions
    - Friends of Little Saigon
    - Earls Cuts - Earl explained having to reinvent himself after doing something for 30 years to be able to move forward w/ the Liberty Bank Building
    - La Sala

The new cohort joined in on the activities and interacted and networked

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

Can the SAC stay in the loop around the story truck?

- Randy explains that Square Feet happens around every 18 months and the goal is to continue working on this before the next Square Feet. The FED can keep the SAC updated especially given our interest in the intersections between arts, livability, homelessness, and centering Indigenous voices.

#### **Commissioner's Corner: Jonathan Cunningham**

**Briefing:** Jonathan Cunningham

This is Jonathan's final year on the commission.

- This is Jonathan's 10th year in Seattle by way of Florida after growing up in Detroit.
- In Detroit, he covered stories in the Black Community
- Mentored by Grace Lee Boggs where he learned about work, livability, urban gardening, and storytelling
- He moved to South Florida where he was closer to the Caribbean side of his family and covered music journalism
- He had an opportunity to move to Seattle to be the music editor at Seattle Weekly and eventually City Artist
- He grew up at the Hidmo and learned a lot there around who was doing what, artists, and activists
- Jonathan has a background in teaching and youth work. Landed at the EMP museum creating the Black History Month programming and the Residency Program
- Jonathan worked about grant funding work after working at all of these non-profits and trying to find ways to look for money. His goal was to be on the other side of the table and work around social justice in that sector
- Voter Education Fund, Creative Equity Fund, Resilience Fund



- Two kids that he loves and enjoys being in family

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

How have you found the other side of the table as a funder?

What musicians have you interviewed that have stuck with you?

- Jonathan mentions Sean Kingston.

Who should we look out for from The Residency?

- Jonathan notes Travis Thompson

What / Who feels like home at the moment?

- Jonathan notes that he's very nomadic but that having kids really rooted him in Seattle over the past 10 years.

### **Chamber of Culture**

**Briefing:** Sharon Williams

The first Chamber of Culture meeting happened with 2-3 representatives from each current Arts and Cultural Districts (Uptown, Columbia City, Hillman City, Capitol Hill, Central District). Vivian Phillips is leading this process and, over the course of the first meeting, discussed – individual artists, organizations, the role of the group (advocacy?), inclusion. There will be several meetings over the summer. Vivian is currently looking at the notes to see how the group will be moving forward. Sharon will keep the group updated.

### **SAC Workplan**

**Briefing:** Priya Frank

Sharon and Priya are hoping to make this budget process more collaborative and inclusive. The group spent this time breaking out into sub-committees and answering the questions:

- What was an accomplishment that you were proud of as a committee?
- What is the highest priority for your committee?
- If you had additional funding, what would it go towards?

The group agreed to send priorities to Priya and Sharon by Friday, 5/17.

### **Director's Report**

**Briefing:** Randy Engstrom

Last year, the Disability Commission came in around the ordinance for people w/ caretakers to be able to attend things for free. Lisa Herbold wants to know if the commission would like to sign off on this. Randy will forward the most recent letter from the people to all of the Commission as well as the possible opposition. Folx seem like they're generally interested.



#### Creative Economy:

- This Thursday is the opening night of SIFF and the formal kickoff of talking to community around this work.
- The past two week has been what do we know and what is the role of the offices / community?
- Resource Group has gotten at the tension between commerce, arts, economic value
  - o There are community mixers the last Wednesday of every month. These will be vessels to put forward ideas around the creative economy
  - o Youth Opportunity
  - o What are those creative tech jobs and how do we create opportunities for people to engage with them if they want them? / Creative Tech (May, The Clockout Lounge)
  - o What support do these individual artists and organizations need? / Artist Needs (June, Youngstown)
  - o Creative Space (August, Langston)
- It would be great for commissioners to be ambassadors, connectors, and content experts of this work – help identify focus groups, community groups, etc
- This wraps up during the Mayor’s Arts Awards where we can reflect back what we heard and the Mayor needs to show up and speak with full confidence to this idea
- Randy asks if we would be open to meeting in June or July with the Music Commission?

Ricky will be transitioning into a full-time Racial Equity Coordinator role and there will be some shifts occurring. Allie Lee will be joining as the new through line for commission work alongside Alex Rose. (Ricky will continue working with CIC, Allie will take SAC and the PAAC, Alex Rose will take on the FED).

#### Chair’s Report

**Briefing:** Priya Frank

We will be integrating the committee feedback and will be sending the letter out for review (Letter due at the end of the month)