



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION
Draft Minutes
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Seattle Municipal Tower, Conference Room 1610

Commissioners present: *Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Jeff Benesi, Cassie Chinn, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Ashraf Hasham, Terri Hiroshima, Billy O’Neill, Vivian Phillips (chair), Kelly Rodriguez, Huong Vu, and Sharon Williams*

Commissioners absent: *Jonathan Cunningham, Tracy Rector, Gian-Carlo Scandiuzzi*

Staff present: *Payton Bordley, Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Elisheba Johnson, Matthew Richter*

Guests present: *Kate Becker, David Brown, Christina DePaolo, Andy Fife, Dwight Gee, Jim Kelly, Tim Lennon, Tom Mara, Jane Richlovsky, Sarah Sidman, Paige Weinheimer*

Call to Order:

Vivian Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of the March minutes

Terri moved to approve the March minutes. Priya seconded. All present approved.

Budget Priorities Letter

Terri and Vivian volunteered to draft the letter, and circulate to SAC for editing and review.

Director’s Report: Randy Engstrom

The Community Development & Outreach committee will merge with the Facilities & Economic Development committee to work on the King Street Station outreach and public engagement process. Randy announced that the Mayor’s Education Summit will be on Saturday, April 30th at Garfield High School, and he encouraged commissioners to attend one of the community conversations leading up to the summit. The LHPAI Rental Coordinator position has been filled by Amanda Licorish.

Cultural Access Washington: Presentation & Discussion

David Brown, Interim Director of Cultural Access Washington (CAWA), presented to the SAC and community members about the CAWA initiative. The measure would appear on the 2017 ballot. If passed, CAWA would provide revenue to the Cultural Access Fund through a voter approved tax – either a .1% increase in sales tax or a similarly sized property tax increase. CAWA funds would be used to fund regional cultural organizations whose budgets are larger than \$1.25 million at levels not more than 15% of operating budget, and award grants to community organizations whose budgets are less than \$1.25 million. The projected funds to CAWA are \$57,650,000. 70% of those funds would be distributed to regional organizations through a calculation based on budget size and annual attendance. Funding would be distributed to community-based organizations through a competitive grant process. 10% of



the funds would fund transportation for every public school student to attend or participate in cultural organizations' programming through the Public School Cultural Access Program.

Feedback by commissioners and community members:

- Commissioners asked for more clarity on the allocation formula for regional organizations, and asked if an equity lens will be applied to funding allocation.
- Commissioners suggested providing aid to smaller organizations interested in engaging youth in the Public School Cultural Access Program, and asked about a formal assessment of the schools' ability to receive the program.
- Commissioners and community members suggested engaging with the community prior to writing legislation in the future.
- Commission asked how Creative Advantage and the Public School Cultural Access Program could intersect.

The Seattle Arts Commission and the 4Culture Board of Directors will meet to continue this discussion.

SAC went into executive session: 5:44 p.m.

Executive session closed: 6:10 p.m.

Adjournment: 6:12 p.m.