

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2017
City Hall, Room 370

Commissioners present: Jeff Benesi, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa (phone), Jonathan Cunningham, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Terri Hiroshima (Co-Chair; phone), Ana Lester (phone), Dr. Quinton Morris, Vivian Phillips (Chair), Tracy Rector (phone), S. Surface, and Sharon Williams

Community Members present: David Rue, Seattle Art Museum and Seattle University; Mary Cadera, Vulcan; Ron Gatsby and members of the Purple Lemonade Collective

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Diana Falchuk, and Amber Rose Jimenez

Commissioners with an excused absence: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez

Call to Order

Vivian Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on Indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people, and affirmed that the Arts Commission applies a racial equity lens to the work.

Artist Performance

Priya Frank introduced the Purple Lemonade Collective (PLC), who create art that educates, inspires and entertains, and who believe that every artist should have the means and a platform to present their work. The PLC includes choreographers, dancers, models, stylists, graphic designers, videographers, and music producers working together to make art accessible to our communities, whether they're across the street or around the globe. Individuals may learn more about their work online at thepurplelemonade.com.

Commissioners asked PLC what kind of support they are looking for in the community, and they responded that they need a venue. They described the challenges associated with having a dance arts collective with no institution to consistently offer space at an affordable rate, and mentioned that the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute is their top venue choice. ARTS shared information about the ongoing LHPAI Facilities Grant, which aims to create community impact by broadening arts and culture participation at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, and seeks to celebrate, nurture, present and preserve African American and Diaspora performing arts and cultural legacies.

Approval of the March minutes

Sharon moved to approve the March minutes; Steve seconded the motion. All present approved.

Racial Equity

Diana shared an update about the 'Leading for Racial Equity' forum at LHPAI on April 4th, as well as an upcoming sold-out racial equity workshop, 'Why We Lead with a Racial Equity Lens to Achieve Structural Transformation' on May 8th, before presenting options for a tailored racial equity training for the Arts Commission.

Diana posed the question: 'what do you all need and want, as a Commission, regarding racial equity?'

- Members want to ensure that they all shared the same language and have a common agreement with how they see the work of the Arts Commission.
- Folks are amendable to the structure of the training, and considered one possibility of having 4 hours of context setting, then 4 hours of workplan building. There is a recognized, ongoing need

to build alignment, norms and joint workplans with the other Commissions that SAC regularly interacts with to accomplish work within subcommittees and beyond.

- Randy highlighted interest from the Music Commission in building analysis within racial equity work, and noted the recent influx of new Commissioners. Relevantly, Design Commissioners will be trained by Diana and Lara Davis; members of the PAAC asked if volunteers from their subcommittee could also have access to the trainings, so Diana will follow up to confirm their inclusion with the relevant stakeholders.
- A larger question was asked of how to include other volunteers from Commission subcommittees into the training and how to convene a joint training with the Music Commission, though no decision was made during the discussion. Volunteers are actively involved in the development of committee workplans and helping to carrying out the work, so there is great benefit to offering the trainings to them as well.
- Commission work planning will take place during the fall, which may be when the second part of the training could unfold. However, the SAC doesn't need to wait to undergo the first part of the training to begin strengthening Commission analysis. Logistically, Diana and Lara Davis would co-facilitate the sessions, though the number of participants will likely be capped at 50; there are 14 Arts Commissioners and 20 Music Commissioners currently.
- Members recognized that racial equity work requires an ongoing commitment; it doesn't end after the training takes place. A question of how to include accountability into the second part of the training was raised; how can we build a common analysis and hold ourselves and our partners accountable to racial equity?
- ARTS will evaluate capacity and calendars to identify times to propose for trainings.
- Vivian asked for a proposal from Diana for how the Arts Commission can build a racial equity lens, and identified a time to discuss the proposal during the next Agenda meeting call on April 26th.

Upstream Music Festival and Summit

Randy Engstrom introduced Mary Cadera, a representative from Vulcan, who shared information about the Upstream Music Summit at the WAMU Theater in Pioneer Square, from 9am-5pm on May 11th and 12th, and welcomed Commission engagement toward outreach efforts and building awareness for the event. Cadera highlighted the website e-180 as a free, technological opportunity for attendees to access on mobile devices to increase interactivity and connection with experts in the field during the conference. Commissioners inquired about Upstream's efforts toward supporting unhoused people living within Pioneer Square, what childcare options are available during the conference, and asked how the festival is addressing the issue of accessibility and cost of Summit.

Cadera responded by describing the cultural partner program that distributes 10 complementary passes to each organization engaged in community outreach on behalf of the festival, and the option for students to receive a 15% discount on tickets; she offered to address questions raised during the discussion in a follow up email to the Commission.

Commission Proclamation

Jonathan will present a Seattle Arts Commission Proclamation to the family of Jonathan Moore, declaring Jonathan Moore Day on April 21, 2017, and inviting residents and visitors of Seattle to join in celebrating Moore and his legacy in Seattle and the many lives he touched. A draft of the proclamation was shared with Commissioners to review before it is finalized.

2017 Seattle Arts Commission Work Plan

Jonathan motioned to approve the 2017 Arts Commission Work Plan; Dr. Quinton Morris seconded the motion. All present approved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:27pm.