

## SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Remote – Zoom Conference

**Commissioners present:** Quinton Morris (Co-Chair), Sarah Wilke (Co-Chair), Cassie Chinn, Chieko Phillips, Dawn Chirwa, Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson, Yeggy Michael, James Miles, Racquel West, Mikhael Mei Williams, Steve Galatro,

**Staff in attendance:** Calandra Childers, Allie Lee, Amy Nguyen, Ashraf Hasham, Erika Lindsay, Kathy Hsieh, Mike Davis, Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar, Dominique Stephens (MO)

**Guests:** Julie-C (Artist), Vivian Hua (SAC appointment pending), Vanessa Villalobos (SAC appointment pending), Reese Tanimura (SMC)

### **Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:05)**

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Cassie moved to approve the commission minutes from January 2021. Sarah seconded. Approved.

#### **Public Comment:**

Jeremy Jolley, Krishna Thiagarajan, and Paul Gjording of Seattle Symphony introduced the [Seattle Symphony Community Stages Fund](#) and encouraged the commission to share information with networks.

### **Artist Presentation**

**Presenter: Julie-C**

Julie-C presented poem, “The Final Fieldnotes of a Future Cultural Worker”

### **New Commissioners**

**Briefing: Calandra Childers**

- Council Appointments (pending confirmation): Vanessa Villalobos, Vivian Hua
- 2 Mayoral Appointments are in motion.

### **Chairs Report**

**Briefing: Quinton Morris, Sarah Wilke**

- Black Arts Showcase – 25k seed money available and need to raise 100k for the project. Currently in early stages of working with third party for software/landing page for showcase.

Vivian Phillips is working with Cascade Media on black writers/editors and will be reaching out to Arts Fund for possibly sponsoring the showcase. Also thinking about creating different partnerships. Still planning to premiere on Juneteenth this year.

- Question - How can City budgeting support this? Since this showcase is happening between 2020 and 2021 is there possibility for double funding?
  - No, only one year of funding is available – the current 25k is allocated for 2021.
  - Fundraising plans afoot, thinking around participatory budgeting process
- SAC 2021 Retreat – 3/30 (T), will be a 4-hour retreat, currently working on an agenda. Seeking a retreat facilitator and we welcome any advice/tips on Zoom retreats.

## **Directors Report**

### **Briefing: Calandra Childers**

- Seattle Foundation Donor Advised Fund / Hope Corps – We are still trying to get details hashed out, but it is moving forward.
- Introduction to Amy Nguyen, ARTS' new Public Art Manager.
- SAC monthly newsletter launch – First newsletter went out on 2/1. Goal is to get updates out in between monthly meetings. Please let Allie or Calandra know if there is anything to include that could be useful.
- Advocacy realm
  - Opportunity for the Access for All legislation to be councilmanic, currently in communication with Arts Fund to host a information session for commissioners. Date coming soon.
  - 2021 Mayor's race – SAC to be thoughtful on how to engage with process. There are folks interested in what an art session might look like – Cultural districts would like to cohost with us, Jasmine Mahmoud @ ArtsWA, and students want to have forum. What does this look like from a commission standpoint? Need to think about how to build back better.
  - Engaging mayoral candidates on new ARTS director search, need talk about community driven process.
- Ad hoc advisory committee for new ARTS director search – Mikhael has agreed to co-chair this committee and we are seeking another co-chair. Please reach out to Calandra, Allie, or co-chairs if interested.
  - Community engagement piece – We want to ensure we are getting qualifications and values we want to show up in the job and recruitment process. ARTS has a small budget for a consultant (support with town hall, focus group, etc.).

## **New ARTS Director Search Community Engagement Process Discussion**

### **Briefing: Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar**

- SAC engaged in an [interactive document activity](#) to answer the following two questions:

- Which communities might be missing that we need to engage in the Director Search?
- What does “success” feel like in this process?
- Questions/Comments:
  - Re: voices we want to center – how do we think about political engagements along the way so they can be applied to the new mayoral team? Political work needs to be done to make sure it gets seen by the right people and to make sure we are creating agency along the way.
  - What is the commitment for the ad hoc committee?
    - Still working on details but will likely be a monthly cadence meeting structure. Will be similar to other committee structures.
  - On how the commission gives input - how much weight does the commissioner’s voice carry? If goal is to be transparent, how much weight does the commission have in the financial moving of things?
    - The commission has a lot of ability to bring people together, especially create a space for the arts community to come together and say, “this is what we are asking for.” Commissioners’ input are ultimately recommendations for the elected officials. Hope is that we can engage in a process that is collaborative and cohesive. Want to be able to say SAC engaged community, this is the process we got behind, and that we expect our next elected officials to undertake that accountability process as they think of next steps.
  - Next Steps:
    - Will take recommendations from today’s [interactive doc](#) and work with Mikhael and Co-Chairs on how to fill out the ad hoc committee with community members that can best represent.
    - Mytoan will clean up the recommendations into a summary and share back as follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.