

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 10th, 2020

Remote – Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Priya Frank (Chair), Quinton Morris, Steven Galatro, Dawn Chirwa, Cassie Chinn, Sarah Wilke, Sheila Ghaibi, James Miles, Yeggy Michael, Chieko Phillips, Jescelle Major, Kayla DeMonte, Mikhael Mei Williams, Holly Jacobson

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Ashraf Hasham, Kathy Hsieh, S Surface, Alex Rose, Erika Lindsay, Meghan Sebold (OED), Scott Plusquellec (OFM)

Guests: Terry Morgan, Tim Lennon, Danielle (SU), Terri Hiroshima, Jonathan Cunningham, Sharon Williams

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

Approval of Minutes:

Cassie moved to approve the commission minutes from February 2020. Quinton seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Welcome

Priya shared best practices for remote meetings.

ARTS at King Street Station 2020-2021 Calendar

Briefing: S Surface

S overviewed ARTS at King Street Station exhibitions and events for 2020-2021. Presentation slides were provided via email prior to the meeting. Highlights include:

- ARTS at King Street Station Advisors were scheduled to attend today for introductions but due to current circumstances amid COVID-19, we will invite them back to a future meeting, in person.
 - About ARTS at King Street Station Advisors: This is a newly formed group of community leaders and arts/culture enthusiasts who will work with ARTS staff to ensure that the programming at ARTS at King Street Station centers racial equity, represents and welcomes diverse communities, and showcases many creative disciplines. Advisors will serve a two-year term beginning November 2018 and ending October 2020.
- ARTS has an outreach plan and press release ready to go out for this information, but due to COVID-19, decided now is not the best time
 - Outreach: through KSS Advisors, robust social media, press contacts, and posters/post card campaigns
- ARTS at KSS Residency
 - Two-month long residency with a \$1,000 monthly stipend
 - Art-making space - only constraints on type of work are those that require ventilation, but otherwise open to various types of media

- Fixed hours are not imposed on artists, but maybe SAC can schedule a time with them to visit during future SAC meetings
- We have a robust line up in 2020-2021

Director Report

Briefing: Randy Engstrom, Calandra Childers

1. Joint SAC/SMC meeting in April
 - We will continue to align the work of commissions/committees in response to last summer's community engagement around the creative economy
2. COVID-19 Response
 - The day-to-day work of ARTS has shifted due to COVID-19
 - We will redirect all possible resources for recovery strategy
 - Governor Inslee will make an announcement tomorrow morning which is aligned with all WA agencies. We want to spread this information as far as we can and respond fast and proportionally
 - Our Strategy = Clarity → Mitigation → Recovery
 - Clarity
 - One aligned public sector message that responds to the gravity of the situation
 - Need to respond fast
 - Number of confirmed cases are doubling every 6 days
 - Putting out a community survey
 - Collect and continuously update this info so the city knows how to respond
 - Series of webinars: community organizations, artists/creatives, community-based orgs
 - Record and upload to website
 - Keep and maintain a dashboard of what we learn along the way
 - Mitigation
 - Short-term harm reduction
 - 100 events already canceled and gala season is affected
 - We may become part of SBA funding proposal
 - Redirection of city dept resources
 - Seattle Foundation - launched yesterday at \$2.5M, already at 5.5M
 - Seattle Foundation wants to fund frontline orgs that are well set up to offer relief to individuals, esp. focused on marginalized communities
 - Multiple phases as more funds get raised
 - Ijeoma Oluo and Gabriel Teodros have Gofundme efforts
 - OED Small Biz Stabilization Fund
 - There will be coordinated efforts among Seattle Foundation, 4Culture, ARTS, Arts Fund, etc.
 - Recovery
 - A point when we are not in crisis. We need to come together as community and reassert our identity and community – cultural work
 - Seattle Arts Commission started during Seattle's biggest recession in 1971 and gave hope to people
 - We may take Summer Studio as an opportunity to drive people out into the neighborhoods

- There is a need for a strong civic narrative. The urgency is high
 - Conversations with Visit Seattle on this
 - The entire city will use one script
- Cultural Access WA, Downtown Seattle Association, and Chamber of Culture will be part of the larger strategic solution
 - Recovery taskforce
- Transparency throughout the process is important

SAC Questions/Comments:

- Summer Studio will be more relevant now
- Through what avenues will the community survey be sent out, and will it reach marginalized communities?
 - ARTS is partnering with OED on the survey. Scheduled to go out on Wednesday or Thursday and the entire City will be pushing it. The City is willing to strategize ways to reach vulnerable communities
 - The OED Small Business Team is developing the survey and willing to tailor
- There are a lot of festivals coming up in May. How will community/organizations know when to cancel or continue organizing their events? How will smaller festivals be reached?
 - Kathy Hsieh on the ARTS cultural partnerships team is focusing on small events and would appreciate expertise on what SAC thinks is most useful info.
- The Seattle Foundation fund launched yesterday - 5.5 mil will go out to individuals and 501c3s. They will work with non-profits that are well setup and geared towards crisis relief focused on marginalized communities. There will be phases of support and more \$ will come in. The first phase will be for well-organized orgs and frontline help
- Community orgs set up for fundraising events are being shut down – we need to help orgs that depend on ticketing and fundraising
- Seattle Public Schools have been canceled and contracted teaching artists are not getting paid
 - Let's work with organizations on online/remote learning
- What are people hearing from the community and what is the most urgent need?
 - Chinatown/ID xenophobia issue – anticipating it will linger
 - Expanding efforts to create partnerships across philanthropy, ensure people share where they are seeing vulnerabilities, and make sure people are leveraging each other's resources
 - Orgs are unsure what to do now – Close doors? Suspend operations?
 - Government doesn't have an answer now, but restrictions will come with a duration, so people can plan. Hoping to hear/share more soon
 - Some are looking for innovative ideas and using this time as an opportunity to do business differently by creating more accessible arts experiences for people. What can be done when you cannot gather in-person?
 - Rent impacts for small venues and organizations. Will there be rent mitigation funds or waivers for City-owned venues?
 - City is in the early stages of discussing this. We need to scale and target resources and hope there will be flexibility with City-owned venues. Perhaps we can ask private owners to match City relief
 - Aligned efforts across State, County, and City agencies

3. Repurposing the Cultural Facilities Fund to COVID-19 Emergency Fund
 - Instead of issuing our Cultural Facilities grant, we want to use this fund to address the reality of rent, individual artists impact, etc. due to COVID-19
 - There is not enough money, so we need to focus our efforts with a racial equity lens.
 - How can we be more proactive and how do we frame this in a positive way, so that artists can find ways to do the art they need to do
 - Need to utilize funds for best impact
4. Mayor Durkan will announce today an initial recovery package to ease financial impacts of COVID-19

SAC Questions/Comments:

- Will there be follow up on COVID-19 efforts to track progress?
 - Let's plan for frequent touch points and be tactical around short terms needs. We can schedule another call or get info out to SAC on a regular basis through ARTS staff

Chair Report

Briefing: Priya Frank

1. SAC/Council Meetings Postponed
 - We proactively put together SAC/Council meeting groups based on areas of expertise and council districts and was about to reach out to Council to confirm dates, but due to the COVID-19 crisis, we are putting that project on hold for now
 - We have a framework for these meetings and will share back at the right time
2. Budget letter is due 5/1
 - Will take language from our 2020 workplan
 - Quinton/Priya will work on this and synthesize community thoughts to add in the letter
 - Will add response to COVID -19 crisis in budget
 - Include how both the City and community will be affected
 - Include how we will leverage and engage externally
 - A recovery plan will be key

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.