

# Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (6:00-8:00 PM)

## Meeting Minutes

**Commissioners Present:** Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, N. Gina Aaftaab, Karina San Juan-Guyton, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Ankita Patel, Johnson Nguyen, Ilays Aden, Bao-Tram Do

**Commissioners Absent:** Amanda Sandoval, Farhiya Mohamed, Elrohi Shuge

**Staff Present:** Peggy Liao

**Guests:** Gui Siddiqi, Trang Tu

**Call to Order:** 6:00 pm

**Welcome (Co-Chairs)** Maria and Gina opened the meeting.

### Action Taken:

- March meeting minutes were approved.
- Peggy shared March OIRA report.

### Co-chair report

- Shelani shared the possibility of inviting UW students as interns for the Commission. The Commission felt hesitant to move forward with this. Will discuss in future conversations.

### Presentation by Trang Tu on BIPOC vax efforts

- Community advocate Trang shared her work advocating for vaccine access and language access for the BIPOC communities.
- Trang encourages the Commission to reach out to the city leadership to share lived experience and perspectives on how to better include the immigrant and refugee communities in the vaccination distribution effort.
- The Commission discussed about potentially presenting (with Trang) in front of the Council (the Governance & Education Committee) for vaccine equity issues. The Commission voted on the action and agreed to move forward.

### Subcommittee group breakouts and report out

- Economic recovery will meet April 10 at 10 am for a subcommittee meeting.
- Health recovery will meet on April 14 at 4:30 pm for a subcommittee meeting.

### Adjourn

The commission adjourned and went into executive session at 8:00 pm