

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Remote – Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Vee Hua, Holly Jacobson, Ebony Arunga, Jessica Caudle, Chieko Phillips, Vanessa Villalobos, Sophia Fang, Kayla DeMonte, Mikhael Mei Williams

Staff in attendance: royal alley-barnes, Allie Lee, Jenny Crooks, Susanō Surface, Maritza Rivera

Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:07)

Approval of Minutes:

Holly moved to approve the commission minutes from March. Chieko seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Co-Chairs Report

Briefing: Vee Hua

- New Co-Chair – James no longer has capacity to be Co-Chair. Encouraging Commissioners to consider role to join Vee as Co-Chair. Discussion:
 - Process – Should there be a nominations process? What is the most transparent way to do this? Google Form or email votes for anonymity?
 - The nominated person shouldn't be obligated to take on the role.
 - Helpful succession plan suggestion would be to have a Chair and Vice-Chair, so there is always overlap with leadership when a Chair rolls off.
 - Time commitment – approximately 5 extra hours each month
 - Volunteering feels equitable. Let's start with volunteering then move onto another process. Volunteers?
 - Vanessa – Available starting July.
 - Others have expressed no availability/capacity.
 - Need to also asks commissioners not present today.
 - Historically the Chair selection has been nomination based.
 - Need to create a decision-making process for SAC that can also trickle down to committees.
 - Vee will send out an email to Commissioners asking for nominations and self-nominations and ask for capacity. Will add clear deadlines/voting dates.
- Meeting with Council - James, Vee, and Ebony are meeting with CM Morales tomorrow to provide a SAC overview. Overview will also include info on the Cultural Space Agency and Committees' goals. Committee Chairs will share goals with Vee via email.

Director's Report

Briefing: royal alley-barnes, Maritza Rivera, Susanō Surface

- ARTS Updates
 - ARTS has started to return to office. The majority of the office is coming in 2 days a week.
 - Sophia Fang was unanimously confirmed by CM Morales's Council Committee last Friday and gave a wonderful presentation.
 - The SAC Retreat was artistic, engaging, and well-facilitated. royal appreciates the open invitation to ARTS to participate.
 - In 2022, the Cultural Space Agency will receive an additional 250k. They will also receive 60k for the B.A.S.E. program in 2022.
 - Current ARTS' Cultural Space Programs (Briefing: Susanō Surface)
 - [Tiny Cultural Space program](#) - Deaf Spotlight will occupy the space. Currently going through permitting, will be constructed over the summer, and hopefully occupied in the fall.
 - [Spacefinder Seattle](#) – Ongoing usefulness to community, regularly used; continued work with web developer (contractor); Requested metrics
 - [Spacelab NW](#) – Will sunset this standalone project and CAI, the developer, will provide an archive of the data; will continue using the City's [Cultural Space Inventory Map](#) which is hosted on seattle.gov and contains very similar data, but slightly higher level; SpaceLab NW was mostly used in the Cultural Districts formation process; Requested metrics from the developer – preliminarily they said it's very lightly used right now. We think the City's data is sufficient and we may also be able to make use of free tools like Google Maps.
 - [Cultural Districts](#) – ARPA process is underway for the cultural districts, who are also working with Georgetown. Currently discussing focus on outdoor public gatherings to stimulate creative economy and they are coordinating with each other so their events/programs do not conflict, and they can be more of a group effort; Georgetown, Lake City, and West Seattle are 3 new cultural districts that have interest in forming; Later in the year ARTS will do more work to codify, clarify, and streamline the Cultural District application process, which as a pilot program for the first 4 districts has been very uniquely tailored to each district. Now we have enough information to make it more consistent.
 - Strategic Investment Fund – Progress on refining the contract templates: they will not only get the money out the door, but also robustly protect the awardees and enshrine ARTS' racial equity and cultural space values; One awardee as a promising opportunity, having made an offer on their desired property.

SAC Questions/Comments:

- What does Estelita's Library have to do with Tiny Cultural Space?
 - Estelita's Library was the very first org that occupied a Tiny Cultural Space, just like Deaf Spotlight will be occupying this new one.

- Re: Cultural space maps - which map was built first? Why were there two maps?
 - The City's data map came first. Spacelab NW has a bit more granular info such as when the org was founded and was easy for the public to contact and request updates. However it required more maintenance. There will be information from Spacelab NW transferred over to data.seattle.gov
 - Chieko will send info on state effort that could use support from this data
- What are the plans for the Cultural Facilities Funding program?
 - This program remains on hold while we get more information on what the ARTS budget is going to be. ARTS is working on bringing this back, and we will reserve this topic for a longer conversation at a next meeting.
- Do any of these cultural space projects need more advocacy from Commission?
 - Yes, all of the above.
- Re: 500k + 250k for the Cultural Space Agency – can we make a case for adding to that?
 - That funding was not for specific programming – The 500k was startup funding for the PDA, and the 2022 250k is further startup funding. Then we have the 10k for B.A.S.E. website, and 60k for B.A.S.E. programming. Advocacy would be on the programming side.
- For 2023, are there plans to fill the 1M commitment to Cultural Space Agency?
 - This is a difficult financial year, and will be played out through where the actual revenue dollars are. There are a lot of unknowns at this time.
- Would like opportunities to partner on homeless population, housing crisis – this is linked to getting people to come out for cultural activities - SAC can be a present voice not just in an art-specific way.

Budget Priorities Letter

Briefing: SAC Executive Committee

The group reviewed last year's Budget Priorities Letter and Response to Proposed Budget – [find here](#)
Discussion:

- Clarification of Cultural Spacy Agency PDA – This was chartered by the City of Seattle. Allie will send a link to the Charter language for SAC to reference.
 - The Cultural Space Agency doesn't have a designated funding stream. FED and SAC can continue to push on this. Last year there was a 5M walk on by CM Morales, but it didn't get traction with other CMs. This might be a question to ask CM Morales tomorrow – is there anything SAC can do to lay groundwork with other CMs? Ebony can add to talking points.
- Clarification of Hope Corps – This is a one-time funding workforce development program for this budget year.
 - Can we make case for continued funding if it goes well?
- What about funds from the General Fund?
 - The budget will be impacted because the arts and cultural sector is not up and running yet. However, SAC advocacy doesn't have guardrails – SAC has the ability to raise what is important to get the arts sector where it needs to be.
 - Arts sector needs more recognition in the books

- Incorporate this for framing of priorities letter
- ARTS flagged that the reality is given Covid and budget shortfalls, we are facing reductions and making the case to keep and maintain the budget ARTS currently has and running our current programs is very important.
- It is important to have priorities and would be helpful to know specifically where reductions are coming from.
 - There are no specific areas, everything is on chopping block, and we need to retain what the office has. IT is critical to retain and maintain what we have for the arts sector.
- SAC would like to know the City budget timeline – Allie will send the City’s budget process diagram to SAC.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.