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**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Virtual Meeting

(Only Zoom due to tech issues in conference room)

**Commissioners present:** Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson, Yolanda Spencer, Avery Barnes, Megan Kiskaddon, Ricky Graboski, Linda Lowry, Rodney King, Yoon Kang-O’Higgins, Dhyana Garcia

**Staff in attendance**: Allie Lee, Gülgün Kayim, Kelly Davidson, Kathy Hsieh, Ashraf Hasham, Alex Rose

**Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:04)**

* Kayla called the meeting at 4:04pm.
* Spotlight on local Indigenous artists
  + Jessica Doe <https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/indigenous-creatives/artist/jessica-doe>
  + UW Powwow happening this Saturday <https://sites.uw.edu/fnuw/powwow/>
* Approval of minutes
  + Yolanda moved to approve the March minutes. Holly seconded the motion. Approved.
* Public Comment:
  + No public comment.

**Co-Chairs Report  
Briefing: Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson  
(Aligning Co-Chairs updates with** [**SAC Goals**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16v5oViKL0yU0ASiEZ87pQHiyMMAuwkeNxZlCtXPUsyw/edit?tab=t.0)**)**

* Review of SAC workplan for remainder of 2025 in support of goals
  + At the summer retreat we’ll present a status update
  + Will email more details as they come
  + Need to figure out retreat date, could possibly use August meeting date
* Update on 3/21 Council Presentation (Goal 1)
  + Seattle Channel link - <https://www.seattlechannel.org/mayor-and-council/city-council/2024-2025-sustainability-city-light-arts-and-culture-committee?videoid=x173476>
  + Thank you to Commissioners that attended and to ARTS staff that supported.
  + A lot of interest expressed by councilmembers wanting to see how arts can play a role in their districts and for city in general.

Discussion highlights:

* + Significance of connecting with other orgs on graffiti, impact of public art on increasing amount of graffiti in district, good opportunity to utilize our networks (CM Solomon)
  + How committee work can be showcased better, the work we do in incorporating community and how SAC works
  + Also what ARTS does; an invitation for advocacy
  + How to get more arts in each district; also councilmembers may be unaware of arts already happening in district
  + Our job is to meet with council – for funding (ARTS is already doing), what is the office doing in their districts; we will have opportunity to meet with all councilmembers
  + We can get mentorship from other commissioners on creating new paths, taking initiative, being proactive
  + We need a coordinated effort, speak with one voice, and work with ARTS
    - Have seasoned SAC member and new member team up
    - There is opportunity for SAC to work with Inspire WA on advocacy, gathering appetite on what would be of interest, advocacy training, can organize to get together on talking points and learn about ARTS priorities
      * Inspire WA is a statewide advocacy org
      * Can help with budget convos
      * Can help us in support of bigger convos
      * Generally hearing this partnership is worth pursuing. Will check back in.
  + Need to differentiate who you are representing when you sit with Councilmembers – are you representing yourself as a constituent OR are you representing yourself as a commissioner? For the latter, you are talking for the whole. What are the challenges that the arts community is facing? What are the challenges and problems, for the good of the whole?
  + Need education on how to be a good advocate for artists , don’t know what the necessities for Seattle arts sector is at the moment, want to know how
  + Seattle Times link re: how changes to Federal level are impacting folks, they are asking for a response by end of week - [https://forms.gle/xTQLST3HJ78rWjgR6](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-57a32918f42b6444&q=1&e=304297c1-38df-427e-8a58-d98d4d9bb478&u=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FxTQLST3HJ78rWjgR6)
* Update on new Commission appointments (Goal 4) – still waiting to hear from appointing authorities.

**Directors Report  
Briefing: Gülgün Kayim**

* Creative Placemaking in ARTS Strategic Plan
  + Efforts have been made to figure out a new structure that would support single member team staff, King Street Station programming needs, and priorities/work that need more heft – special projects not having a place to live
  + Built a new division – Creative Placemaking
  + Definition of Creative Placemaking – how arts and culture impacts different sectors to create community and space; across sectors for the good of the people that are there, community-centered, economic benefits, etc.
  + Gülgün provided context on Creative Placemaking term - took off in 2008 through Art Place America (info available online); funding triggered activity, nexus of creativity, community, and place, arts lens by which we are serving community needs; about building cities, attaching people to their communities, and addressing issues going on
  + Shared Creative Placemaking division in ARTS org chart
  + Alex Rose is Division Manager
  + Focus areas include:
    - Connection with FIFA work
    - Downtown Activation Plan (DAP) work
    - Creative economy work at ARTS
    - Cultural Districts, Cultural Space
    - Work that cross fertilizes at ARTS has a place
  + What does this mean for SAC?
    - We have opportunity to talk about this area of work at SAC and committee level; lot of policy work with Creative Placemaking, now we can bring arts related FIFA plan, arts related DAP plans and structure, space work, etc.
    - We are excited and there is an opportunity for us to connect to the current FED committee in a more meaningful way. FED committee is potentially the mechanism to keep all updated on this new division

**SAC Questions and Comments:**

* Dhyana – Can you provide an example of a successful cross pollination art project related to creative placemaking?
  + Gülgün – Hope Corps. Money to artists by creating jobs for them. Jazz night in Pioneer Square worked with 5-6 bars in the area and there were incredible responses from project, people loved the excitement, impact to bars, food trucks wanted to be around, more bars want to be involved. Nexus of artists getting employed, learning about history of jazz, regular gigs, and eventually getting others to pay for it – a proof of concept uplifting the identity of a place through art. Our work would also involve building sustainability into it.
  + Rodney - Is there going to be an info session for applying to Hope Corps? How do people know about it? This would be helpful for Central District too. Know people in CD who could bring this to that community.
  + Gülgün - For now Hope Corps is engaged in downtown activations, but we have funding in 2026 for what you are mentioning and would love to connect. We are also trying to make temporary positions ongoing for Hope Corps.
* Kathy – ARTS has been doing a lot of this work for decades, happens organically via things already happening in community. Great that we now have a centralized place so they aren’t just ad hoc things that happen but have dedicated staff and capacity; this also helps us get more funding, help elevate communities making these efforts, and sustain
* Dhyana – As an artist busy making my art and wanting to see more art, what are ways artists can get more inspired, and grasp all things going on?
  + Gülgün – From the perspective of Creative Placemaking, we are not about the communication aspect, and not a comprehensive one stop shop for culture sharing; we are not in the marketing realm
  + The Stranger may be making efforts in that realm.

**Committee Deep Dive – Facilities and Equitable Development Committee (FED)  
Briefing: Ricky Graboski**

* Conversations are just starting with FED re: transitioning focus to align with ARTS’s new Creative Placemaking division
  + Committee transition is due to less and less for FED to grapple as committee since the launch of the Cultural Space Agency which maintains independence. There has not been a lot of audience/membership since the launch of CSA.
  + Will also continue to discuss equitable facilities in Seattle – this is a long-term issue that can make a difference
  + Planning to have transition conversations for the next few months and come up with terms of new committee at August SAC retreat. Will also redevelop workplan.
  + Getting support from Alex Rose and Ashraf Hasham at ARTS but could use more membership.
  + Governance – will figure out leadership after committee gets settled; Ricky will hold chair solo until that time

**SAC Questions and Comments:**

* Linda – expressed interest in FED co-chair role.
  + Ricky – leadership will be discussed after committee gets settled in its new phase.

**Announcements  
All**

* Check out the new Waterfront deck
* Cherry Blossom festival at Seattle Center
* <https://waterfrontparkseattle.org/blog/event/meet-me-at-waterfront-park-5k/>
* <https://www.museumofflight.org/exhibits-and-events/yuris-night>
* Ai Weiwei day at Sculpture Park
* Megan - On the Boards gala next week, Miguel Gutierrez, Dani Tirrell <https://ontheboards.org/events>
* Rodney - CD legacy opens tomorrow at Arte Noir – Rodney is participating among other artists <https://www.artenoir.org/events>
* Ricky - The Vera Project – youth working as sound crew at Waterfront events <https://theveraproject.org/events/>
* Yolanda – Collaborating with native organizations, planning summer event for canoe families, working with Duwamish, putting word out there on showcasing artists
* <https://artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/14000063/threads-connection-2025-winter-visions>
* Dhyana – Coordinating two arts trainings, trauma informed training
* Kathy – building CARE grant program, connecting with 200+orgs
* Kelly – Planning ARTS All Staff off-site work day
* Gulgun – Preparing for budget ask for next year
* Alex - <https://events.humanitix.com/wasabi-samba-and-the-pazific>
* Vanessa – Laughs in Spanish <https://www.seattlerep.org/laughs-in-spanish/>
* Holly - <https://www.pathwithart.org/artremedy> Arthome opening up to everybody
* <https://www.pathwithart.org/current-exhibition> Opening Thursday, April 23
* From Margo at Seattle Times: We’re hoping to hear from WA organizations about how the changes from the new administration (termination of grants, changes to grant programs and requirements, tariffs, etc.) are impacting them. Here is the link: [https://forms.gle/xTQLST3HJ78rWjgR6](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-57a32918f42b6444&q=1&e=304297c1-38df-427e-8a58-d98d4d9bb478&u=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FxTQLST3HJ78rWjgR6) Deadline: Apr. 11, EOD.

Meeting adjourned at 5:24pm.