**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Hybrid Meeting - In-Person @ King Street Station 3rd Floor Panel Room OR Zoom

**Commissioners present:** Avery Barnes, Yoon Kang-O’Higgins, Holly Jacobson, Rodney King, Yolanda Spencer, Megan Kiskaddon, Dhyana Garcia, Linda Chavez-Lowry, Vee Hua, Leslie Anderson, Ricky Graboski, Vanessa Villalobos

**Staff in attendance**: Gülgün Kayim, Kelly Davidson, Allie McGehee, Allie Lee, Jenny Crooks, Ashraf Hasham

**Guest**: Olisa Enrico (Cultural Space Agency)

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

* Holly Jacobson called the meeting to order. Encouraged commissioners to share/introduce indigenous artists (at the beginning of each SAC meeting).
  + Indigenous artists/events introduced:
    - [Tommy Segundo](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-1390247e193a761a&q=1&e=30e9a326-b80d-460d-9f29-b2f827c56335&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.crenativedesignz.com%2F%3Ffbclid%3DPAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAabYiqPXrhYGJiuyEQVsU5icJi_wLt9WyzeKTptgjEcK03r8JMrlPqQqZes_aem_AU8OxS0d6_a63f-cnjeTd_BfqJ0EW7R-scKP4xW23MYxUqB_IxXby-OnT68iTtrSomTuuepBVV3h7-efX15lgYD1)
    - [Black River Cultural Arts Center](https://www.blackriverarts.org/)
    - [Indigiqueer Festival 6/29](https://waterfrontparkseattle.org/blog/event/indigiqueer-festival-2024/?date=202406291500)
    - [yəhaw̓](https://yehawshow.com/) Indigenous Creatives Collective [acquires land in Rainier Beach](https://southseattleemerald.com/2024/05/03/y%C9%99haw%CC%93-indigenous-creatives-collective-expands-its-footprint-in-rainier-beach-with-the-acquisition-of-neighboring-house/)
    - [All Our Relations: Tribute to the Orca 6/12](https://www.wildsalmon.org/news-and-media/sos-blog/tribute-to-the-orca.html) (TODAY 6:30pm at Seattle Aquarium)
* Kayla read SAC’s Racial Equity Statement:
  + *The Seattle Arts Commission emphatically shares the Office of Arts & Culture's* [*Commitment to Racial Equity.*](https://www.seattle.gov/arts/about-us) *As an advisory body grounded in our common pledge to fostering racial and social justice, we leverage our collective strength and breadth of knowledge to advocate for racial equity in arts policy, programming and funding. We do this work by centering communities of color in our united effort with the City to help build a just and liberated society for all.*
* Approval of Minutes:
  + Vee moved to approve March, April, and May minutes. Linda seconded the motion. Approved.
* Public Comment:
  + Olisa Enrico gave public comment.
    - Cultural Space Agency is hosting a conversation around Kerry Hall/Cornish at Washington Hall; Jenny Crooks has the event information/invite and can share – encourages SAC to spread the word. Attempting to build a coalition of folks interested in saving the Kerry Hall space. If you would like more info let Olisa know.
* Due to full agenda, Co-Chairs decided to table the “get to know you” activity to a future meeting.

**Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) 101 Presentation  
Briefing: Kelly Davidson**

* Kelly provided a slide presentation overviewing ARTS, which includes the mission, racial equity commitment, programs, facilities, funding streams, relation with the Arts Commission, etc. *Informational pdf document provided via email prior to the meeting.*
* 2024 ARTS priorities shared.

Questions and Comments:

* Kayla – SAC subcommittees align with ARTS’ programs.
  + Kelly – Thinking about having PMs come and share on their programs at SAC. Would be helpful to hear it from them and current activities going on.
* Rodney – do you still have smArt Ventures grant available? A lot of artists need this $, how is the word getting out?
  + Kelly – Yes, this is the lowest barrier entry grant
  + Ashraf – A lot of people hear about it after getting declined for other grants; $ for smArt Ventures increased to $1,500 this year. Announcements also go out through our email listserv, web, socials, QR codes, networks, partner orgs, CIC, SAC etc. We will need more capacity for outreach as we get more applications; luckily we’ve had increases every year so far.
    - Holly - Plug for CIC, being the conduit to larger community
* Linda – Is there funding available for arts orgs to pay for staffing?
  + Kelly – We are trying to make a case, SAC’s budget letter will be very helpful.
* Avery – re: offering support to those applying to grants – where are the mentorship services being offered?
  + Kelly/Ashraf/Jenny – In a variety of ways including Public Art bootcamp (training program), smArt Ventures mentorship for application process, grant review/feedback meetings for all of our programs, Artists Up provides individual artist support and networking (application for artists who want mentorship in a variety of areas; they get paired with a mentor from our local community. The program is a collaboration among ARTS, Arts WA ,4Culture, Artist Trust. Contracted with Mentorly for the online mentorship aspect. Program currently on pause). SAC feedback is welcome.
  + Vanessa – Value of Artists Up program – most of the community served there have been BIPOC artists, a valuable program that I would advocate to continue, a grassroots effort to reach more artists that are not already on our rosters and communication channels. With Doors Open, is there any duplication perceived?
    - Ashraf - Due to launch of Doors Open program, 4Culture asked for Artists Up to go on pause for a bit as they needed to put all efforts/resources on Doors Open and ARTS needed to staff up as well.
    - Vanessa – Technically Artist Trust would still be one of the partnering orgs?
      * Ashraf – Yes, in fact we’ll be looking at giving the 15k budget to Artist Trust this year to expand the existing programs for individual artists.
  + Holly – Is there a report on the efficacy of the mentorship program?
    - Ashraf – Yes, will send the report documents to Allie to share with SAC.
  + Leslie – Fresh Perspectives is a paid art-focused program that offers a mentorship opportunity for young adults in curation and collections.

**Co-Chairs Report  
Briefing: Holly Jacobson & Kayla DeMonte**

Holly and Kayla overviewed SAC’s role and purpose:

* The SAC budget letter is posted/public now
* There will be an advocacy push coming up
* Overview of budget timeline *(Allie will share timeline details via email after meeting)*
  + 8/9 - budget forecast (will find out how admissions tax is doing) 🡪
  + 9/24 - Mayor’s budget presentation 🡪
  + Second round of advocacy starts 🡪
  + Public comment period 🡪
  + Council goes through iterative process, works on budget amendments
* Holly – What SAC can do? It will be better to get an early jump on advocacy planning, there is no time to waste; Inspire WA will be sending out an action alert on SAC’s behalf later this week – reiteration of SAC’s budget letter. This is an opportunity for us to use our position as commissioners to get the word out too.
  + Kayla – After the action alert, we will draft an FAQ to have same talking points. Would encourage help from interested commissioners. We will then be getting together into district teams (suggested by Inspire WA)
    - Vanessa – In addition to engaging folx, we can go to our connected communities and engage with them in our own ways, figure out why should they care.
      * How do we support?
      * Artists are not getting the word out.
      * What will the ask be for each commissioner? With limited time/capacity, how can commissioners have a different role in activating? How can a commissioner enhance anything they are doing?
    - Kayla – The aforementioned FAQ doc will include that info on what is the value to community; re: district leads and limited time, at least 1 commissioner for each district is the goal, but commissioners can also feel free to go out in community.
    - Dhyana – re: connecting with communities that we each represent – if we know about our own communities, perhaps we can each write a paragraph about communities we serve, so we can figure out what our commonalities are. Maybe something to do at the retreat.
* Advocacy next steps:
  + Action alert goes out this week
  + FAQ gets drafted
  + Put together district teams / offer up different ways to engage community

Other Questions and Comments:

* Rodney – How is the City’s fiscal year defined?
  + Kelly – goes into effect each year on Jan 1
  + Rodney – does the existing budget carry over?
    - Allie M - If not spent, it goes back into the pot and we don’t get to spend it. (with a few exceptions)
* Linda – Does SAC have a social media platform to share info?
  + Allie – No, ARTS communications team generally shares out SAC items through ARTS social channels. However, advocacy items cannot be posted to ARTS channels since we are a government agency.
  + Holly – We can also each share out via our organization’s social channels which can be impactful
  + Rodney – Wouldn’t it be better to have a SAC account to share-out opportunities and efforts with community? I rarely receive any opportunities from ARTS.
    - Allie/Kelly/Jenny – There is the issue of who will manage the account (City staff cannot if used for advocacy efforts) and it’s important for ARTS and SAC to be aligned. ARTS communications team does a great job of sharing internal and external grants/opportunities frequently through email, web, blog, and social channels. We encourage everyone to opt-in and actively engage with our channels to see all of these announcements. We can invite our Communications Manager to the next meeting to talk more about this.

Retreat date and planning:

* + 8/15 (Th) 12:30 – 5pm. Calendar hold sent.
  + Items considering for the agenda - Share on communities we represent; How we want to use our budget; Committee work; A list of what we can do and cannot do as SAC; Buddy system
  + Please send dietary needs to Holly and Kayla
  + Can continue to collect retreat agenda items – send to Holly and Kayla
  + Yoon - In the past what was the purpose of the retreats? (working time, getting to know you, presentation, committee work planning, etc.)
    - Vee – I think we like to do work-planning as a starting point.

**Director’s Report  
Briefing: Gülgün Kayim**

* Thank you for the SAC budget letter, which is something ARTS cannot do.
  + SAC can provide accountability/ensure we have public accountability
  + Would encourage SAC to think about what you can do, so SAC and ARTS are not duplicating
  + SAC members are bridges into community and can help bring conversations back and forth
* Budget Next Steps
  + See aforementioned budget timeline overview.
  + We submitted our budget last Friday and it is now processing at exec level; we will hear back from exec level and there will be some back and forth.
* City Council Arts and Culture Roundtable – 6/21 (F)
  + We’ve been asked by Council President Nelson – to do regular roundtables on arts and culture/creative economy at Chair Woo’s committee. This is intended to inform Councilmembers on what the issues are in the sector.
    - Creative economy
    - Will share data of struggling of orgs
    - Will be joined by Downtown Seattle Association (DSA), Office of Economic Development (OED), and Manny Cawaling of Inspire WA will be facilitating the conversations.
  + Will be recorded and streamed live on Seattle Channel
  + We don’t control the agenda but can advise on it, Chair Woo will set the agenda
* Re: earlier comment on creating “a list of what we can do and cannot do as SAC” – happy to do a high-level presentation. ARTS and SAC are collaborators.

**Committee Updates  
Briefing: Committee Chairs**

* CIC (Kayla) – Overview of CIC status update with Kayla and Holly as new Co-Chairs of SAC; ARTS grants updates <https://artbeat.seattle.gov/2024/02/21/2024-grants-and-funding/>; expectations of CIC membership
* FED (Ricky) – Meeting cancelled due to low attendance/no quorum
* PAAC (Leslie) – Review and recommendations for the public artists roster selection and Aids Memorial Pathway (AMP) Accessible Signage. Welcomed new PAAC member Tommy Gregory (Port of Seattle).

**Final Comments  
All**

* Vanessa – re: issue of Kerry Hall – suggests sharing out to FED.
* Kayla – please tune in later this week for advocacy next steps

Meeting adjourned at 5:38pm

*Zoom Chatbox:*

*16:07:08 From Kelly Davidson (she/her) to Everyone:*

*We are finding our own snacks*

*16:07:12 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*im good on the red vines*

*16:07:19 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*🤣*

*16:07:27 From Leslie to Everyone:*

*Reacted to 🤣 with "😂"*

*16:13:32 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*All Our Relations: Tribute to the Orca - Seattle, WA (salsalabs.org)*

*16:19:38 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*Olisa, would it help if were to amplify the meeting at Kerry Hall with the media?*

*16:31:42 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*leadership and admin is split*

*16:34:02 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*I love that idea*

*16:34:28 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*we increased SV to $1,500 this year :)*

*16:39:13 From Megan Kiskaddon (OtB) to Everyone:*

*NW Film Forum also just had layoffs*

*16:39:22 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*I'm here*

*16:41:29 From Megan Kiskaddon (OtB) to Everyone:*

*Thank you @Kelly Davidson (she/her) !*

*16:41:34 From vee hua (they/them) to Everyone:*

*Replying to "NW Film Forum also j..."*

*sure did*

*16:41:43 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*Thank you SAC for your partnership*

*16:43:01 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*can you put the question in chat?*

*16:46:02 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*https://www.artistsup.org/*

*16:46:07 From ARTS @ KSS Panel Room to Everyone:*

*Avery's question: What kind of mentorship is offered at ARTS*

*16:46:44 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*What is the cost “saved” by pausing funding for the Artist Up program?*

*16:47:22 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "https://www.artistsu..." with 👍*

*16:47:27 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Avery's question: Wh..." with 👍*

*16:47:27 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*@Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) the cost saved is mostly staff time, the program costs are minimal*

*16:48:15 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*@Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS how is this information being shared with the community?*

*16:49:22 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*https://www.artistsup.org/artists-up-mentors*

*16:50:47 From Leslie to Everyone:*

*Fresh Perspectives is a paid art-focused program that offers a mentorship opportunity for young adults in curation and collections*

*16:51:14 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Fresh Perspectives i..." with ❤️*

*16:51:40 From Kelly Davidson (she/her) to Everyone:*

*Thanks for noting Fresh Perspectives Leslie!*

*16:51:54 From Avery Barnes to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Thanks for noting ..." with 👍*

*16:52:18 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*Mentorship and outreach dollars is a theme, for sure. Artists Up is a valuable program to preserve and fund.*

*16:52:35 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Mentorship and outre..." with ❤️*

*16:52:42 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Thanks for noting Fr..." with 👏🏽*

*16:54:55 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*stepping away from my screen in case you need me - i'll let you know when i'm back*

*16:54:55 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*That is also when the public can comment.*

*17:00:52 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*Replying to "stepping away from m..."*

*back!*

*17:04:38 From Dhyana Garcia (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*Great ideas Vanessa!*

*17:05:01 From Avery Barnes to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Mentorship and out..." with 👍*

*17:05:06 From Avery Barnes to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Great ideas Vaness..." with 👍*

*17:15:02 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*LETS USE THE CHAT ALLIE*

*17:15:23 From Megan Kiskaddon (OtB) to Everyone:*

*I can hear everyone in the room*

*17:16:10 From Megan Kiskaddon (OtB) to Everyone:*

*I have to hop at 5:30, I’m interested in the aug 15 SAC retreat*

*17:19:06 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*My question is: does the Seattle Arts Commission have a social media platform to share information on these amazing art programs the City is providing to the art community? If not, that's ok. Kelly mentioned the Arts Department shares information on their website and I grab that content and shorten the content, if needed, to share on our social media platforms.*

*17:20:30 From Kelly Davidson (she/her) to Everyone:*

*Maybe we can have our Public Information Officer share at the next SAC meeting?*

*17:20:45 From Leslie Anderson to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Maybe we can have ou..." with ❤️*

*17:21:15 From Linda Chavez-Lowry (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Maybe we can have ou..." with 👍*

*17:22:42 From Avery Barnes to Everyone:*

*Have and decisions been made with the new commissioners "matching" with other longerstanding commissioners?*

*17:22:49 From Avery Barnes to Everyone:*

*any\**

*17:23:03 From Avery Barnes to Everyone:*

*List of what NOT to do would be nice*

*17:24:50 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*agree*

*17:28:14 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*This is the challenge everyone.*

*17:31:15 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*Does the public have access to it, to listen in live?*

*17:32:08 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*Who sets the agenda- the chair of that committee?*

*17:32:29 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*Thanks Gulgun.*

*17:32:46 From Megan Kiskaddon (OtB) to Everyone:*

*Thank you @Gulgun Kayim !*

*17:33:02 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*do you want to discuss carryforward*

*17:33:20 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*Diyanna- clap clap*

*17:35:01 From Megan Kiskaddon (OtB) to Everyone:*

*Thanks everyone, I have to hop*

*17:35:09 From Dhyana Garcia (She/Her) to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "Diyanna- clap clap" with 🙂*

*17:36:42 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*https://www.seattle.gov/arts/programs/grants/artists-at-the-center*

*17:36:43 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*me too. Thanks everyone*

*17:37:31 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*Replying to "https://www.seattle...."*

*open for applications until 5pm on Tue 6/25!*

*17:38:50 From Kelly Davidson (she/her) to Everyone:*

*Thank you all!*

*17:38:59 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*For the FED- Please help connect Olisa’s message to that body of people/participants since its relevant to that subcommittee.*

*17:39:02 From Vanessa Villalobos (she/her/ella) to Everyone:*

*Thanks all*

*17:39:04 From Gulgun Kayim to Everyone:*

*Thanks all!*

*17:39:23 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) ARTS to Everyone:*

*ashraf.hasham@seattle.gov <3 much love!*