**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

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

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

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

**Guest:** Skylar Stekly, Jiayi Sun

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

Approval of Minutes:

* Vanessa and Leslie emailed edits to March and April minutes. Approval of March and April minutes will be postponed to June.

Public Comment:

* No public comment.

Round robin introductions and welcome to our new Mayoral appointments Avery, Rodney, and Yoon!

**Co-Chairs Report  
Briefing: Vee Hua, Vanessa Villalobos**

* Thanks to existing members for supporting us to get to where we are.
* Would like to activate engagement plan with Councilmembers
  + Consider buddy system, maybe by districts
  + Unified messaging
* Co-Chairs Transition and Vote
  + Holly and Kayla have been nominated as new Co-Chairs of SAC
  + Leslie moved to approve Holly Jacobson and Kayla DeMonte as Co-Chairs of SAC. Yolanda seconded the motion. Approved.
* Big appreciation from the group to Vee and Vanessa for stewarding us for the past ~2 years.

**SAC 101 & ARTS Budget 101 Presentations  
Briefing: Kayla DeMonte, Allie McGehee**

**SAC 101 – Kayla DeMonte**

* What does the Seattle Art Commission (SAC) do:
  + Advise and support the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS)
  + Advocate for arts funding, arts community priorities, and projects that advance or impact Seattle arts community
  + Develop/partner on initiatives and major projects
  + Connect with and lift up arts community
* Primary work - review ARTS/City budget and funding priorities and provide commentary and advocacy on behalf of arts community in annual letters
* Resources – find more SAC info and bylaws on shared drive (
* How SAC is organized:
  + Advocacy body
    - SAC membership – 16 voting members appointed by Council, Mayor, and Commission, led by Co-Chairs
      * Cultural Investments Committee (Co-Chairs: Holly & Kayla)
      * Public Art Advisory Committee (Chair: Leslie Anderson)
      * Facilities and Equitable Development Committee (Chair: Ricky Graboski)
  + Non-advocacy partnership
    - Office of Arts &Culture (ARTS)
      * Gülgün Kayim, Director
      * Kelly Davidson, Deputy Director
      * Allie Lee, Executive Assistant
* Who can SAC work with:
  + Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS) - support, advise, lift up
  + Seattle City Council - advocate, engage
  + Mayor’s Office/Seattle Executive office - advocate, engage
  + Coalitions and organizing groups - partner, engage, lift up
  + Other City commissions - partner, engage, lift up
  + SAC Committees/Community members - lead, engage
* Where we’ve been and where we’re headed:
  + What SAC has worked on/supported: Cultural Space Agency, Creative Advantage, Hope Corps, etc.
  + Last few years: Challenges! COVID, Director transition, limited SAC membership, etc.
  + What’s possible: So much!
* Other thoughts/comments:
  + ARTS is in the process of officewide strategic planning; would be helpful to have ARTS/SAC alignment
  + SAC FAQ form led by Vee coming soon
  + Need to add new members to committees
    - New members will need some time to attend all the committees and decide best fit
    - Allie to make a one-sheet of all the meeting dates and links and email out

**ARTS Budget 101 (ARTS and Arts & Culture Fund (12400) presentation) – Allie McGehee**

* *Presentation slides emailed out after meeting*
* High level overview on current City budget situation, City budget timeline, distribution of ARTS’ budget, Arts & Culture Fund – where the money comes from/goes, admissions tax law, revenue forecast, ARTS – Arts & Cultural Programs (grant programs and granting strategy), and future budget related training topics

Questions/Comments:

* Holly – can other departments dip into our funds?
  + Allie M – a possibility
  + Vanessa – we need partnership from council to value and maintain what we have
* Allie M – would like to further discuss pandemic recovery funding survey data from last month
* Kathy – in the past when ad tax was higher but general fund was in shortfall, Council legislated a big % of our funds to fill that
* Kathy – In 2011 there was a large cut in grantmaking; this year was the first time getting a bit back but not all of it.
* Kayla – Are there notes to the Mayor’s Office for this year’s budget?
  + Allie M – we submitted a memo with an assessment of arts and culture organizations’ status, scenarios based on different growth, and how we can program funds in an effective way
* Gülgün/Allie M – Last year we asked for increases and got 400k, split across programs. SAC letters are impactful and will be especially important this year.
* Vanessa – To commissioners - encourages action on your own in between meetings which will get us going. We need to define our message and priorities.
* Megan/Holly – Proposes to start the draft letter and coordinate/assign work to get it going. Usually SAC Execs Committee starts the draft.
  + Vee – Start with laying out a budget letter overview, reference past letters and build off of those to have a cohesive message. Determine who has capacity and who is good at writing. Vee volunteers to start a new template.
* Gülgün will attend this Friday’s SAC Execs Committee meeting to discuss ARTS/SAC alignment.

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

* Welcome Kelly Davidson, ARTS Deputy Director!
* Advocacy presentation (virtual) scheduled for SAC tomorrow, 5/15 (Th) 3:30pm with Inspire WA
  + Allie will ask Inspire WA if okay to record presentation for members that cannot make it.

**Committee Updates  
Briefing: Committee Chairs**

* CIC (Kayla) – Discussed CIC workplan, membership, and supporting PEG team grants - Artists at the Center opens today and 2025 CityArtist applications closed last week. Will also need new CIC Chairs in the coming months.
  + ARTS 2024 Grants opportunities: <https://artbeat.seattle.gov/2024/02/21/2024-grants-and-funding/>
* FED (Jenny on behalf of Ricky) - Katie Sheehy (OPCD) gave an overview of the City’s Comprehensive Plan focusing on the arts and culture element. Comp plan feedback deadline is 5/20 – please contact Jenny Crooks [jenny.crooks@seattle.gov](mailto:jenny.crooks@seattle.gov) if you have questions/feedback.
* PAAC (Leslie) – PAAC did not meet in April. In May there will be new member(s) joining, encourages new SAC members to join. Public art opportunities with FIFA.
  + Yoon is interested in joining.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.

***Zoom Chatbox:***

*16:16:08 From Skylar Stekly to Everyone:*

*for the host of this zoom, will today’s meeting be recordered?*

*16:16:09 From jenny crooks (she/her) Office of Arts & Culture to Everyone:*

*Oh and apologies, I'm also the Staff Liaison for the Facilities and Equitable Development (FED) commitee*

*16:34:02 From ARTS @ KSS Panel Room to Everyone:*

*Replying to "for the host of this..."*

*I'll be posting the meeting minutes on the webpage, but no audio/video recording.*

*16:35:12 From Skylar Stekly to Everyone:*

*Replying to "for the host of this..."*

*Would it be alright if I recorded this zoom, not to be posted anywhere, for personal accuracy purposes*

*17:02:24 From Holly Jacobson (she/her) Path with Art to Everyone:*

*Arena payment?*

*Are these presentations available in our folder?*

*17:03:09 From jenny crooks (she/her) Office of Arts & Culture to Everyone:*

*I can give a very quick FED committee update in Ricky's place if that is helpfull.*

*17:03:26 From ARTS @ KSS Panel Room to Everyone:*

*Replying to "I can give a very qu..."*

*yes plz ty*

*17:13:58 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*I'll put together a PPT on the arena*

*17:14:14 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*and I am happy to host a Public Art/Municipal Art budget training*

*17:18:54 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) Seattle Office of Arts & Culture to Everyone:*

*Calandra got in touch to let us know they're happy to do a presentation for anyone re: Doors Open - so maybe for SAC?*

*17:20:09 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*I have to sign off. Thanks everyone.*

*17:20:24 From Alexandra McGehee to Everyone:*

*I think that's a great ideas Ashraf.*

*17:20:40 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) Seattle Office of Arts & Culture to Everyone:*

*Reacted to "I think that's a gre..." with 👍🏽*

*17:21:45 From jenny crooks (she/her) Office of Arts & Culture to Everyone:*

*jenny.crooks@seattle.gov*

*17:23:17 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) Seattle Office of Arts & Culture to Everyone:*

*https://artbeat.seattle.gov/2024/05/14/2024-25-artists-at-the-center-grant-is-open/*

*17:23:30 From Ashraf Hasham (he/him) Seattle Office of Arts & Culture to Everyone:*

*https://artbeat.seattle.gov/2024/02/21/2024-grants-and-funding/*

*17:25:02 From ARTS @ KSS Panel Room to Everyone:*

*Replying to "for the host of this..."*

*not sure if you've recorded already, but if you did, please only use for your own accuracy then delete. thanks!*