

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Zoom Conference

Commissioners Present: Reese Tanimura (chair), Sharlese Metcalf (Vice Chair), Joleen Hughes, Kitty Wu, Nate Omdal, Terry Morgan, Daniel Pak, Ben Hunter, Jerry Everard, Paula Madrigal

Commissioners Absent: Sue Ennis

City Staff Present: Scott Plusquellec, Alex Rose

Guests: Yoon Kang O’Higgins, Anne O’Dowd, Jessica Toon, Nick Vaerewyck, Keola Kama, Eric Lilavois, Jovino Santos Neto, Shannon Welles, Jason Clackley

Call to Order: The was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Reese Tanimura.

Public Comment: N/A

Welcome – Reese Tanimura

Reese shared a land acknowledgment, and welcomed guests, including Anne, Jessica, Nick, Keola, Eric, and Jovino, who have been advanced by the Mayor’s Office into the appointment process to join the Music Commission. Next step is to have their appointments heard and confirmed by City Council. More to come on City Council’s slate of appointments (including Shannon, Eric, and Jason).

All in attendance introduced themselves.

Regular Commission Business – All

Minutes from April 21, 2021 SMC meeting: Kitty motioned to approve, Pak seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

Guests: Yoon Kang O’Higgins and Anne O’Dowd, Friends of the Waterfront

Yoon shared a presentation of programming from Friends of the Waterfront, with support from Anne.

- 2020-Spring 2021 (filming, art installations, online)

- Been able to do more passive activations (installations) and online programming
- “Reflections” in partnership with Seattle Public Library – available online
- “I AM” project
- “Artifacts from Utopia” via Artist-in-Residence Takiyah Ward
- Waterfront Vibes – playlists on Spotify by local curators
- Performance on floating dock - Bustillo, Ben Hunter, and others
- Filming opportunities to support NW Folklife’s 50th Festival
- Spring-Summer 2021
 - Beats & Eats on Pier 62 – KEXP DJ Friday night series July 9-Sept 3
 - Veracity on the Water, July-Aug live music partnership with The Vera Project
 - 206 Zulu 10th Annual Beat Masters July 24
 - Totem Star youth showcase August 7, noon-2:00
 - Dancing til dusk every Tues night on the pier in August
- Weekly Busker series (May-Aug)
 - The first instance of public busking is today! 3 more dates in May, then 3 days a week throughout the summer (June: Thurs, Fri, Sat. July/Aug: Tues, Weds, Thurs)
- Fall Concerts
 - Working through logistics of what it looks like to do a public show; intend to provide as much free music as we can, most likely on Saturdays in the fall
- Looking ahead to 2022
 - Madaraka Festival (One Vibe Africa)
 - Move from 1 acre to 20 acres of programmable space
 - A couple blocks from sculpture park down to the stadiums
 - Connecting Pike Place Market smoothly to the waterfront near Aquarium

Question: Can you share more about the busker program and how it’s set up? Looking to apply lessons learned to an organizing campaign to help some buskers work with Sound Transit.

- For this pilot year, Friends of the Waterfront is working with Gigs4U this summer, going to meet with Pike Place Market to discuss their busker program
- Yoon and Nate to stay in touch about this

Main corridor: Overlook Walk (space that connects the Market to Pier 62 and new Aquarium Ocean Pavilion). Pier 58 demolished recently, design is progressing rapidly.

Reese: NW Folklife’s filming there was wonderful. Thank you, Yoon and Anne!

Guest: Denise Burnside, Seattle Musicians’ Access to Sustainable Healthcare (SMASH)

- SMASH was established in 2015, offered its first services in 2017
- Hired first employees right before pandemic
- Traditionally started with preventative care (healthier music scene, healthier musicians) – audiology clinic where musicians get hearing tested, get educated about their hearing
- Right after pandemic hit, launched mental health services – now allow 12 sessions per year
- Dentist who does pro bono work – his scope has changed to deal with emergent situations, so SMASH is looking for more dentists
 - Current dentist can share his experience

- Sight & Sound is a vision care partner that has done pop ups at festivals, they are interested in coming out here to do a pop up
 - Medical care is an overwhelming system to navigate, SMASH wants to lower barriers
 - Can offer free glasses representing 80% of vision prescriptions
 - New board member advocated for silicone earplugs
 - Want to do this pop up in the summer – work the line, get folks signed up with SMASH – maybe mid September at the latest
 - Need a site that's easy to access
 - King Street Station? Alex ask
- Our dentist is interested in doing a dental pop-up, but would need a mobile dental van
- SMASH is focused on musicians, but could broaden the scope to include other artists and creative workers if there were additional resources
- Question: Who can be part of SMASH?
 - Musicians who are at or below King County median income (individual is right around \$50k). SMASH wants to eventually expand to include musicians of all incomes for navigation services (finding providers, making appointments, etc.).
 - SMASH serves ages 18+, and music teachers count as musicians
 - We service the whole Puget Sound area
- The more members SMASH has, the more funding they can pursue – please spread the word to invite others to join: <https://smashseattle.org/join-smash>

Reese: this timing is crucial – as folks are getting ready to go back out there

Nate: I've been on the SMASH board for about a year now, want to underscore the navigation aspect – having an advocate to help you sort through options and scheduling etc. Huge benefit!

Denise: yes, even on insurance, it's still difficult – that's why we offer the navigation services to all

Connecting & Celebrating: 1-on-1 check ins in breakout rooms

- All in attendance met for one-on-one conversations to continue building connections. Thanks to Sharlese for recommending that we do this!

Committee Updates

Advocacy + Economic Development Committee

- One of the most tangible opportunities is conversation with IATSE
 - In conversation with reps from IATSE 15 (sound tech and stagehands union)
 - Huge increase in opportunities available with new venues (e.g. Climate Pledge)
 - Will be great to have a large pool of skilled labor, able to fill in show calls, load in and load out calls
 - Need new workers of all skill levels, particularly folks who haven't been well served
 - Rhino Staging's decision not to renew regional contracts opens up more opportunities – including at the Gorge
 - Good paying jobs, fairly low barriers
 - Seeking community partners to build up the IATSE workforce

- Becka Beatty – business rep from IATSE – working on a training – could go into existing sites where young folks are gathering
- Climate Pledge will be having job hiring fairs coming up – in addition to working with IATSE, they will be hiring for box office, ushers, security, changeover staff
- Interest in spreading the word – a lot of people are struggling ,out of work, and even considering leaving Seattle
- Related: LiveNation & IATSE recruitment form – fill out to be contacted for an info session: <https://forms.office.com/r/HLBs5KDFCz>

Youth + Community Committee

- This committee advocates for youth opportunities and opportunities for community at large
 - Historically helps to plan City of Music Career Day, makes sure it's relevant
 - Internships have also been a focus
 - Committee in the past was co-led by the Music Commission and Arts Commission, and in the last year the group has expanded to include other disciplines (Youth Speaks, FEEST, Hugo House, etc.)
- Expanding scope led us to create sub working groups
 - Career Days/Roadshows Group, led by Ben Hunter, Alex Rose – themes of education and opportunities for careers
 - Cultural Education, led by Monique Courcy (TeenTix), Reese – building partnership with Seattle Public Schools, who are having a hard time connecting with students
 - Reminder: Jane Zalutsky addressed the commission last month to invite support for getting Memorial Stadium on the levy
 - Antiracist Strategies, led by Tina LaPadula (Office of Arts & Culture)
 - Digital Equity work group – formed in 2020, continuing to meet this year, working with folks like David Keyes, Sabrina Roach to continue ongoing advocacy
 - Group meets monthly, David going to present on the Broadband Benefit Program. State funding will help support young folks and musicians as well.

Government Updates

Alex follow up with any news regarding the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG)

Misc. Announcements & Next Steps

Reese: cultural sector advocacy at City Council meeting yesterday. Funds from American Recovery Plan coming our way through State, County, City. Our Arts Commission counterpart Quinton Morris put out a budget letter to the Mayor advocating for cultural sector support.

- Commissioners, write to CM Mosqueda (chair of Council's Finance Committee), or your own councilmember
- The more they hear from us, the more they'll understand that our sector needs support

Reese: Celebrate our NW Folklife 50th Anniversary with us over Memorial Day weekend!

Meeting adjourned at 1:32