

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2021 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
MS Teams Conference

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

Commissioners Absent: Ben Hunter, Jerry Everard

City Staff Present: Scott Plusquellec, Meli Darby, Ashraf Hasham, Alex Rose

Guests: Sarah Wilke, Andrew Joslyn, Keola Kama, Jovino Santos Neto, Jessica Toon, Shannon Welles

Call to Order: The was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Reese Tanimura.

Public Comment: N/A

Welcome – Reese Tanimura

Reese shared a land acknowledgment, and encouraged support of our indigenous brothers and sisters, especially with the recent news from Canada about mass graves at residential school sites.

Introductions all around.

Regular Commission Business – All

Ben Secord won't be pursuing a second term as a Music Commissioner, due to decreased capacity. He has offered to otherwise be a resource for SMC and its priorities.

Minutes from May 19, 2021 SMC meeting: Sue motioned to approve, Kitty seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

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

All in attendance met one-on-one in breakout rooms.

SMC and Recovery Strategies

Welcome Sarah Wilke, co-chair of the Seattle Arts Commission.

Thank you to those of you who have participated in advocating to City Council to support arts, culture, and the creative sector in recovery funding.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Overview:

- A couple different funding bills that went from Mayor's Office to Council 2 weeks ago
- \$200k Seattle Center activation
- \$375k Created Commons activation
- 2 biggest allocations: \$25M in direct aid to individuals who have been impacted by COVID-19 (been unable to receive other government assistance); and \$23M for neighborhood activation and revitalization
 - o Arts/culture not directly named in these
 - o Meetings with CM Herbold, Morales, Mosqueda
- 2 amendments introduced and passed yesterday by Council
 - o For \$25M they are naming cultural workers as one of the priority groups for this
 - Paula, Nate, Reese all testified – advocacy works! Quite moving to hear the public comments, and also what CMs have seen regarding creative industries' disproportionate/lacking access to fund
 - A CBO will be charged with overseeing this
 - o The \$23M for neighborhoods – an amendment carved out \$3M of this to be managed by Office of Arts & Culture.
 - Only problem is CM Lewis (Downtown, Sea Ctr, P Sq) is looking for more funds for downtown recovery; he wants to write a new amendment to present to Council for their final vote on Monday
 - Concern that he might want to draw from that \$3M fund (spoke and voted against it in the meeting yesterday)
 - Advocacy encouraged to CM Lewis to keep the \$3M intact (and thank him for support for arts and culture)
 - Reese to follow up with further info
- CM Gonzalez was supposedly opposed to naming creative workers as a priority group in \$25M fund
- In Lewis' district (incl Seattle Center and Uptown) there's a huge amount of cultural organizations
 - o Sounded like Lewis was going to try to count other funds from other buckets that will be "accessible" to arts, culture, creative industries
 - o Anyone who lives or works in District 7, make sure to call that out in your message to him
- Refer to the bill #CB120093 – ask to keep \$3M intact (as passed by Council Committee)
- Full Council meeting on Monday 6/21 – consider public comment here
- Let them know they are supporting humans, not just materials
- Been providing stats (esp. to Herbold, Morales, and Mosqueda) and these are being shared by CMs
 - o 18% of the GDP of our city comes from the creative sector!
 - o More musicians in WA than Boeing workers

- Arts & Entertainment have the highest unemployment rates of any job family in the County
- Safety nets like unemployment not serving freelance creatives

Seattle Arts Commission Priorities

- Focus for next year: Transition, Advocacy, Recovery
 - New director in the office, new mayor
 - Recovery funding and transition to reopening
 - Primary committees:
 - FED – helping steer Cultural Space Agency (supporting BIPOC development of cultural spaces)
 - Cultural Investments Committee – looking at mayoral race, working to get candidates to prioritize arts and cultural industries as part of the mayoral platforms
 - Public Art Committee – focus on Waterfront, new Public Art manager
 - Also looking at what SAC can do regarding the rehiring of Director position (ultimately with the Mayor)
 - Through line is around neighborhoods
- Depending on ARPA funding, general budget finalized in the fall, Jump Start fund
 - Looking at how to advocate for funding for our sector
- ARPA funding – this is the first 50%, in the fall City leadership will allocate the next 50%
- More connections between SAC & SMC! Strong overlap of our work – we have a really strong voice when we are able to speak with one voice.

So many “revitalize downtown” efforts right now, that one wonders if they’re starting to “step on each other’s toes”

- City’s #1 focus is on homelessness and business – not arts, culture, creative
- Downtown has access to all kinds of recovery funds – the funding we’re talking about is a relatively small portion

Committee Updates

Advocacy + Economic Development Committee

- Job opportunities on the staging/sound side of live music. Need for sound techs and crew at T-mobile Park and Climate Pledge Arena. Much of this will be through IATSE.
 - New jobs previously being contracted with out of state companies
 - SMC can help spread the word about training opportunities
 - Certification that is required to work in a labor hall (sound set up, and knot tying for rigging)
 - Training opportunities at Intiman, Vera, hopefully at Memorial Stadium
- Longstanding research project around Seattle Admissions Tax
 - Nate met with KC Councilmember Dave Upthegrove; any funds that are raised by the stadiums must go back into the stadium coffers for maintenance
 - Amending a 25 year old stadium tax is not out of the question
 - Potentially another advocacy opportunity
 - Question: do tax exemptions apply to concerts in stadiums, or just sports games in stadiums?

- Likely all events
- Here's how an Admission is defined: (2) As used in this chapter, the term "admission charge" includes a charge made for season tickets or subscriptions, a cover charge, or a charge made for use of seats and tables, reserved or otherwise, and other similar accommodations; a charge made for food and refreshments in any place where any free entertainment, recreation, or amusement is provided; a charge made for rental or use of equipment or facilities for purpose of recreation or amusement, and where the rental of the equipment or facilities is necessary to the enjoyment of a privilege for which a general admission is charged, the combined charges must be considered as the admission charge. Admission charge also includes any automobile parking charge where the amount of such charge is determined according to the number of passengers in any automobile.
- Regarding workforce development, CM Mosqueda mentioned that youth unemployment ranged from 18% all the way up to 29%
 - A lot of opportunity for both A+ED and Y+C!

Youth + Community Committee

- Pak has been chair of Y+C since 2017 – opportunity to bring on new leader soon!
- Revised our charge this year to expand scope to music, arts, creativity in general (YouthSpeaks, Na Ilahee Fund, Red Eagle Soaring...)
- City of Music Career Day has been a prime focus for the committee; related is Road Shows (bringing a career exposure event out into the community)
- Goal of increasing youth voice led to a series of youth roundtables – put on hold when pandemic hit
- Have also supported The Mixer, racial equity trainings
- Recently formed an Antiracist Strategies subcommittee
- Inclusive, intersectional, intergenerational, cross-sector
- Digital Equity Work Group formed in 2020 – when realized virtual was the key to youth accessing educational opportunities. Brought in subject matter experts David Keyes, Sabrina Roach.
 - Alex send Digital Equity advocacy letter
- Cultural Education – SPS has said they don't know how to find all the students, but we as youth development workers do
- Alex follow up with Career Day Save the Date

Executive Committee

- On the verge of filling our vacant seats on the commission! Public nomination process was successful.
- New commissioners to get an overview of committee work and larger initiatives from Office of Arts & Culture and Film + Music/Creative Industries team
- Research and reports leading into 2020 surfaced needs and solutions
- New commissioners please hold July 20, 2-4pm, for City Council meeting where appointments will be presented
- Monthly meetings to continue for the next quarter
- Alex send new series

Government Updates

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant

- Bad news is 6 months after 16B were allocated, less than 1% of the funds had been distributed as of Monday
 - o 15 venues out of 14,000 applicants had been notified of funding as of last Friday
 - o as of Monday 450 venues (11 in WA state)
- Good news – administration of the funds transferred to another group within SBA
 - o Average funds for each WA state club has been \$1M

Restaurant Revitalization Fund

- 3 lawsuits against prioritizing WMBE businesses succeeded in rolling back the ability to prioritize WMBEs

Some venues starting to reopen

- Jazz Alley opened last week
- Triple Door opening this weekend
- Tractor etc. doing shows in July
- Majority won't open until Sept.

Misc. Announcements & Next Steps

REVS – Reopen Every Venue Safely – hosting a venue workers reception

- June 29, 3-7pm at Washington Hall
- Kitten and puppy petting, vaccinations
- Recognizing mental health and wellness of venue workers – SMASH, mental health resources
- Food from Taste of the Caribbean

Next steps: Keep eyes peeled for info regarding advocating for arts/culture/creative sector! Sign up for public comment opens at noon on Monday.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32