

MINUTES
Seattle Music Commission Meeting
Wed, March 15, 2023, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
 HYBRID Virtual/In-Person

Commissioners Present: Kitty Wu - Chair, Jason Clackley – Co-Chair, Anne O’Dowd, Shannon Welles, Jessica Toon, Bunnie Moore, Nick Vaerewyck, Adra Boo, Casey Carter, Andrea Freidman, Jovino Santos Neto, Julius Caesar Robinson

Commissioners Absent: Keola Kama, Nate Omdal, Andrew Joslyn, Sue Ennis, Denise Burnside, Jolene Hughes, Terry Morgan, Paula Madrigal, Eric Lilavois

SMC Staff Present: Scott Plusquellec

Guests: Ben London and Katie Van Patten of Sonic Guild

Call to Order: The ORDINAL meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Chair Kitty Wu, with a land acknowledgement.

Public Comment:

- No Public Comments

Regular Commission Business

- *Approval of Minutes:*
 - Minutes not approved due to lack of quorum at start of meeting. Minutes to be approved at May Commission Meeting.

Sonic Guild Seattle

- Presentation by Ben London, Katie Van Patten
- Introduction of Katie Van Patten as newest Sonic Guild employee

Ben noted the number of organizations, many represented on the SMC, doing similar work around workforce development and technical assistance to industry members. He proposed the idea of creating a coalition of organizations doing similar work.

- Potentially 6 organizations
- Each one curate an event
- Create a tapestry of networks
- Pool resources to build programming that benefits all artists and members of the community
- Vocational focused series. Can use the Re-visioning survey to provide input on what these meet ups might focus on

- Recording Academy can support aspects like paying for venue, staff, etc but limited ability on curating curriculum.
- Sonic Guild also has resources and is applying for a grant from WA State Microenterprise Association.
- Could have tiered approach to participation, some partners might not have resources but would be on board to promote.
- See how this might help with Downtown Activation Program.
- Use this to make a case for a long-term music vocational program at Seattle Colleges.

Committee Updates:

Youth and Community:

- Welcomed Andrea as co-chair
- got oriented for the year, getting more focused on advocacy efforts, bringing youth to the table
- talked about having a grants workshop for youth, roundtable to hear from youth
- Intentionally inviting youth to the meetings for their perspective.

Advocacy and Economic Development:

- Got updates on ST letter, on Arts Director Hire, on Sports commission conversation,
- Ticketing legislation in Olympia did not pass, could come back next year.
 - If that ticketing legislation is revived, Jason would be interested in writing a letter re inequities to smaller venues

May Meeting with Markham:

Discussion on how to frame out the conversation with him, explain the music commission is refocusing and provide ideas for what OED could be looking at in supporting the music industry.

- How can we be value to OED and Mayor.
- What does he see in his goals that SMC can align with.
- What do we look forward to in order to focus our work.
- Alignment of his values and ours.

Popcorn around on ideas to bring to him:

- Is music in and of itself part of the mayor’s plan to revitalize downtown.
- How does he want to receive what we are doing and where does it go from there? What does he need from us to sell the ideas and initiatives that come out of this group?
- What is in his purview? What can he actually act on? Sometimes we ask things of people that they can’t deliver on. Would like the OED to recognize that music is important to Seattle, and provide visible tangible results.
- How can the weight of the city be helpful rather than a hinderance in supporting and creating these larger events – as a driver of development.
- Amplify what others have said, how can we fit into downtown reactivation plan. How does music fit in to his priorities.
- How important is music to them and what can they do?
- What does he know about music, what is the importance?

- What about budgets, what money do we have and what can it be spent on – supporting artists, food for meetings
- Activation of downtown
- Livability – what power or opportunity does he have on this. Seems to be the number one concern of the artists responding to survey.
- Affordable housing
- Around the conversations re film and music – what is happening with OFM, how can he best champion us and we him, money for economic development study.
- Make more venues for all genres of music
- Guaranteed income, what happened with this? Get info from San Francisco, City’s responsibility for safer bathrooms/spaces?

Additional Thoughts –

Create a list of attainable goals for the remainder of the year, don’t wait to ask permission to ask questions, what are some wins not just for SMC but for Markham as well.

Utilize past successes to show value and to mirror future asks – take advantage of music tourism, more artist parking, easy actionable things.

Action Item: Get questions to Markham in advance. Kitty, Jason and Scott will distill.

Re-visioning Survey update:

Survey – need to redistribute, responses have tapered off over the last few days. Have over 100 responses Lots of artist response, would like to see more in music business. Would be worthwhile to spend some of the money on getting survey out to areas where we have gaps in responses, can we get a second graphic that is more inclusive? Multiple graphics could speak to multiple demographics.

Action Items: Jessica can do a clean graphic herself and Jason has another artist to use. Bunnie – can send some talking points on language for more inclusivity.

Issue order of importance:

Livability #1

Other options were ranked fairly evenly.

City of Live Music priorities:

#1 Music facilities

City of Music Business priorities:

Support for Music Sector is #1

85 of 125 responses offered to do further work around the survey

Date for Vera event. May 11? Or should this be a panel discussion on the results of the survey? Tie into the Sonic Guild project idea? Elevate the brand of the Commission.

Meeting Adjourned TIME – 1:30 pm