

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

ONLINE TEAMS MEETING/IN-PERSON HYBRID

Commissioners Present:

In person: Kitty Wu, Jason Clackley, Daniel Pak, Andrea Friedman

On line: Jovino Santos Neto, Adra Boo, Casey McKay, Keola Kama, Nick Vaerewyck, Bunnie Moore, Denise Burnside, Joleen Hughes, Terry Morgan, Nate Omdal

Commissioners Absent:

Jessica Toon, Andrew Joslyn, Eric Lilavois, Paula Madrigal, Anne O’Dowd, Sue Ennis, Shannon Welles

SMC Staff Present:

Scott Plusquellec

Guests:

Jeremy Mohn, CM Nelson’s Office

Call to Order:

The ORDINAL meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by Chair Wu, with a Land Acknowledgement. Technical difficulties prompted late start.

Public Comment:

- No Public Comment

Announcement:

Staff announced officially that the appointments of Andrea Friedman and Julius Caesar Robinson, and the reappointments of Shannon Welles, Nick Vaerewyck, Jovino Santos Neto and Jessica Toon had been approved by a unanimous vote of the full Council on Jan 3rd. Congrats to all!

Moving Agenda Item to Executive Session:

Jason asked for a motion to move an item on the agenda relating to the Arts Commission to Executive Session. Jovino moved, Nick seconded, all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Approval of Minutes – Jason moved to approve the November 16th meeting minutes, Keola second, all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Adding a Co-Chair to Youth and Community Committee:

Since Jason is now Vice Chair of the full commission, he is stepping down as co-chair of the Youth and Community Committee and made a nomination that Andrea be added as his replacement. Discussion. No other nominations. Jovino moved, Casey seconded, all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Core Tenants Discussion

Jason kicked off with an overview of the topic and the need to build strategic vision.

Scott provided some background on the original purpose of the Commission,

- need to look at equity, accessibility in industry.
- what do commissioners see in their professional lives that need addressing.
 - highlight and advocate for that.
 - How do we make Seattle City of Music vision reality?

Discussion items for breakout rooms – what should be 5 things that we as a body should be doing/focusing on each time we come together.

Request made to hear from OED Director Markham McIntire on what his vision is. Scott will schedule.

Breakout rooms:

Notes from In Person discussion -

- we all have knowledge of how to serve in the community and know we can't do it all. Need to focus on a smaller list that is more meaningful, build teams to do the work, culture lives on the street,
 - idea: put artists on Third Ave (city looking to refigure the corridor)
- Advocating for affordability for creatives and workers in the industry (affordable housing on third avenue, would help improve safety, activate it.) Visibility creates safety. Don't build affordable housing through a private developer.
- Pike/Pine, Waterfront, identify open spaces and focus on activations
- City council needs to hear over and over about the vital City of music
- Need to meet with Visit Seattle and work with them on projects.
- Standing meetings with Seattle City Council members to keep abreast of issues,
- Affordability, activation, advocacy, entrepreneurship, capacity building, (need for creating jobs and sustainable wages)

Room 1

Keola – super helpful to have this discussion.

What is our remit here?

- Advocating is first topic, advocacy can go so far, need to do stuff that we can control and get done, what is the process for advocacy?
- if we can agree on some core tenants, if we can get an ask that is something that Council can act on
 - then meet with Council or staff, bring stakeholders and make the ask,

20 different perspectives, hard to come to consensus, need to have mind set of staying focused and come to agreement on hard decisions

Jeremy – would love to hear from music industry more often, offering himself and the office as a resources.

Room 1 Breakout Notes from Bunnie

1. Who is Listening?

- Seems like agenda items get stuck in the meeting or no follow up
- Too many agenda items that none receive proper focus
- Little to no contact with City Council to follow up/ know how requests are being received

Proposed Solutions:

- Establish regular meeting intervals with City Council (ex: every fourth meeting)
- use bi-monthly SMC meetings to narrow down which action items we'd like to take to City Council (ex: five action items)
- establish a formal process to communicate goals to city council

2. Real World Impact for Musicians

- Need to balance overall advocacy/policy change with actual events that benefit musicians (ex: Nate's Masterclass, showcases)
- Advocate for the future of music with national events coming to the city

Proposed Solutions:

- Find specialized national events, and make sure that local musicians of all genres are represented (ex: World Cup, NHL outdoor hockey game)
- Get Seattle Sports Teams to commit to featuring local artists on different stages, and in music played at events
- Establish relationship with Seattle Sports Commission, with goal to:
- Establish formal/easier process for local musicians to perform at big sporting events

Room 2 Breakout Notes from Nate

Denise - musician stabilization.

Industry based on musicians (Seattle) Creative/local first,
fewer national opportunities

Musician Migration

Casey

We used to see larger brands promote and produce events in Seattle.
How can we bring opportunities like this back?

Caesar

Most unique music scene.

“Outside of the mainstream”

the “Industry” “picks people out”

One at a time

(Najee, Kenny G, Mack

Grunge was the anomaly

How can we make the downtown more of a “jam center?”

Terry

Creating spaces

Creating your own eco structure

How can the city aid musician who need to create their own eco-structure?

We need to advocate/create rebates for the taxes associated with venues of all kinds.

Nate

Seattle is so seasonal. Can we program to offset that somehow?

Summer can be just as tricky as the winter

Quick Hit Items:

Workforce and Career Days – spoke with Alex Rose, still waiting to hear from Arts leadership on how the money will be allocated.

January 25th – launch of revisioning survey, have flyer, at Vera.

City of Music at every opportunity, like the airport, Denise could connect with Seahawks, comprehensive list for the arenas that musicians can get on? 20% local artists. Bunnie can take lead on this.

Meeting Adjourned 1:30pm