

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

September 03, 2019 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maya Babla Appiah, Gina Aaftaab, Maria Zepeda Flores, Eric Holzapfel, Ankita Patel, Johnson Nguyen

Commissioners Absent: Medhanit Abebe, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Farhiya Mohamed, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay

Staff Present: José Manuel Vasquez, Paul Quiñonez-Figueroa

Guests: Saroem Phoung, Thary Sun Lim, John Marquez, Andy Castañeda, Christina Daniel, Jayvan Styles, Riena (last name not given), Johnny (last name not given).

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Ankita and Maya opened the meeting. Minutes for August were approved unanimously.

Guests: Young Warriors Project (All)

Saroem Phoung from PointOneNorth Consulting LLC presented on the Young Warriors Project. This project focuses on immigrant/POC youth and juvenile justice reform. Several youth that they work with shared their experiences going through the program and how much they have benefited from it. They invited the commission to join them for the Oct 4th celebration and fundraiser event.

Action Taken: The Commission voted and approved the purchase of a table up to \$500 for the Young Warriors Project Celebration and Fundraiser event.

OIRA Report (José Manuel)

José Manuel shared current updates on the work OIRA is doing.

Community and Subcommittee Updates (All)

Commissioners shared various community events. Commissioners to send community events/updates to José Manuel one week ahead of meeting to include in Director's report.

Networking Exercise (All)

Johnson and Maria shared sample email template for responses to "share with your network" asks. Commission reviewed criteria and process to share information and what channels are available.

Information to include in any request to "share with your network":

- What is the purpose/intent?
- What is the desired outcome of the ask?
- What is the process involved?

- What is the intended audience?
- Follow up required or deadlines to know.

Leadership Roles and Opportunities (All)

Co-chairs shared opportunities to step into a leadership role for the Immigrant and Refugee Commission. Some of the opportunities for current commission members are:

- C4A Convening representation
- 5 Commission meetings liaison
- Women's committee lead
- IRC Retreat planning

Subcommittee Leads Updates (Subcommittee Leads)

Subcommittee leads shared updates.

Youth – Maria and Johnson are meeting with DEEL to review RFP/RFQ process and provide feedback.

Census – Upcoming regional census funding opportunity will soon be available for community groups.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:00pm