

Seattle Film Commission

Meeting Minutes – Monday, December 22, 2025, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

M5 Creative and Virtual

Commissioners present: Champ Ensminger, Tom Florino, Mark Freid, KD Hall, Michael Huang, LexScope, Kat Ogden, Anthony Tackett

Commissioners not present: Lowell Deo, Davis Powell, Budi Mulyo

Staffed by Office of Economic Development: Chris Swenson

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Public Comment
 - a. Tarran Vail, Stone Cold Media
 - b. Fransico Munson, Stone Cold Media
 - c. Ian Allan, Stone Cold Media
 - i. What educational programs and infrastructure is present in general with up and coming trade unions – how to connect with non-standard film trade employees with an eye to make them filmmakers
 1. KD – NATAS mentor programs and scholarships, will exchange emails
 2. OED – Will share FCT and WF program information
 - d. Bill Hoffman, Producer and Writer
 - i. Potential for Harbor Island Studios is phenomenal, looking forward to filming a pilot there
 - e. Steve Ross
 - i. Written a screenplay set in 1929 in Seattle, concerned about Harbor Island availability
5. General Order of Business
 - a. Approval of November 2026 meeting minutes
 - i. Approved
 - b. OED
 - i. Federal impacts information request
 1. Drone safe zones proposed around stadiums, Mark will track and report back to SFC
 - ii. Seattle Film Ecosystem conversations
 1. OED convened film org leadership conversation to assess physical and fiscal landscape of Seattle film ecosystem (SIFF, NWFF, WA Dept of Commerce, King County Creative, Washington Filmworks, SFC)
 2. SFC has opportunity to work with KC Film Advisory Board as they put together business plan for Harbor Island Studios
 3. OED positioned to lead the conversation with these orgs, will report back to SFC on opportunities to engage and inform
 - iii. M5 Creative update
 1. M5 Creative initiative opened building with OED/Seattle Center agreement in April 2024, transitioned to film-centered activity at the building in April 2025, current agreement expires 12/31/25
 2. M5 building is part of the film ecosystem resource conversation

- iv. Presentation: Office of Economic Development – Commercial Production Attraction and Retention Initiative (Chris Swenson)
- c. Committee and workgroup updates
 - i. Economic and Workforce Development (Tom Florino)
 - 1. Harbor Island Studios – Landscape and SFC engagement
 - a. Proposed idea of County transferring that asset to Washington Filmworks, and seeing if WF can do lobbying to utilize B&O contributions to help support the facility; legislation is currently too small to support both real estate and incentive fund, would need some working
 - i. Q – Is this something that SFC
 - ii. Q – Any other opportunities from other orgs or businesses interested discussed at the meeting?
 - b. Long-term view is that Govt should not be in the business of owning these assets, public-private partnerships can lend to better support of growth of the industry
 - c. Growing concern about what the spaces are for workforce development
 - ii. Policy (Mark Fried)
 - 1. Final review of SPD UPO statement (Mark)
 - a. SFC have reviewed, Chair will review version on letterhead and share
 - 2. Final review of SB 5814 statement (Davis)
 - a. SFC have reviewed, Chair will review version on letterhead and share
 - iii. Marketing, Branding and Initiatives (Champ Ensminger)
 - 1. Social media: Visibility about attending events, official letter re HIS
 - 2. KD has offered to produce an SOP for Inside Scoop
 - 3. KD asks to get access to socials accounts
 - 4. Inside Scoop: Consider cadence and worth of the events – *Tabled to January*
- d. Budget
 - i. Budget review – *Tabled*
 - ii. Treasurer
 - 1. Last call for volunteers, Chair will appoint a Commissioner to the position
 - iii. Reimbursement process - *Tabled*
- e. 2026 SFC Retreat
 - i. OED will share March 2026 options via survey
- f. Presentation to City Council + Position 11 Council confirmation
 - i. OED targeting before end of January
- g. Coordination with Sports Commission / FIFA
 - i. OED anticipates January 2026 connection
- h. Commitments and events
 - i. Past
 - 1. November 10 – Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) training
 - a. Excellent training and trainer
 - b. Understanding there are different government structures for each tribe; key to remember that structures came out of a template that may have been misleading
 - c. Washington Filmworks also took training and have followed up with developing a program; interested in WF presenting to SFC on what they're doing to learn and develop their program
 - d. Handbook is posted for review by all commissioners

- e. OED will share
- 2. November 25 – Scope Screenings
 - a. Dec 30 last event of the year with 10 local filmmakers
- 3. November 29 – IATSE 488 Labor Market
 - a. OED attended, lower
- 4. December 3 – SFC + SMC annual meeting
 - a. Good planning discussion, will connect Chairs to schedule 2026 meeting
 - b. CP Nelson was present: “Ask for it or someone else will”
- 5. December 4 – Washington Filmworks Annual Update
 - a. Boilerplate presentation
 - b. Conversation with WF lobbyist did not provide guidance other than not to engage with WF on SB5814 during this time of legislative uncertainty
 - c. 2026 Film Day will be virtual
 - d. SFC is interested in hearing more about the confluence of commercial work at HIS
- 6. December 17 – Filmmakers of the African Diaspora – 2025 monthly series
- 7. December 18 – SeaDoc Mixer

- ii. Inside Scoop
 - 1. January 2025 – Davis
 - 2. 2026 planning – *Tabled*
- iii. Upcoming
 - 1. January 2025 – City Council targeted
 - 2. 2026 SFC meeting location

6. Adjourn