



Seattle Film Commission

Meeting Minutes – Monday, June 22, 2026, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Virtual

Commissioners Present: Champ Ensminger, Tom Florino, Mark Freid, KD Hall, Michael Huang, LexScope, Davis Powell, Anthony Tackett, Michael Gaston

Commissioners Absent: Kat Ogden

Staffed by Office of Economic Development: Chris Swenson, Taylor Durand-Scaggs, Hana Peoples

Note: These are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 6/22/26 meeting, do not include every word spoken, and are not a literal transcript.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgement
 - c. Public Comment
2. General Order of Business
 - a. Approval of June 1, 2026, meeting minutes
 - i. Approved
 - b. Committee updates
 - i. Branding and Marketing
 1. Re-cap of KD's Inside Scoop
 2. Future of Inside Scoop
 3. Best Practices for Inside Scoop Marketing
 4. Creation of a Commissioner Onboarding Handbook
 - ii. Public Policy
 1. Discussion of OED trip to NYC to attend the AIFC Conference
 2. Recommend creation of a more independent City of Seattle identity, separate from WA Filmworks
 3. Boeing IMAX Closure
 4. Discussions of FIFA opportunities with local crew
 - a. Opportunity to collect data on who is getting work
 - iii. Workforce and Professional Development
 1. Capacity building with WA Filmworks
 2. Harbor Island Studios
 3. WA Filmworks: B&O tax development – encouraging more companies to join
 4. WA Department of Commerce asset assessment
 - a. Committee chairs met with Wheelhouse, the creative economy arm of Washington Filmworks, which was contracted to assist with study
 - i. Concerns the process was built as an academic process rather than an engagement with industry
 - ii. Focused on Harbor Island Studios
 - iii. SFC feedback centered on lack of work contributing to lack of assets and physical resources
 - b. Representative Davis participated in a separate roundtable
 - i. Requests for sound stages and studios all across the State



- ii. Others recommended creating a concentration of studios in one space rather than spread out
 - iii. Discussion about accessibility of these spaces and economic viability if spread out
 - 5. Policy engagement with World Cup: meeting with Australian production companies
 - a. Little awareness of the varying industries in Seattle outside of tech
- c. Issues
 - i. Boeing IMAX closure statement
 - 1. Commission drafting a united statement for release and availability to be involved with larger conversations
 - 2. Sharing the importance of keeping theaters for theaters
 - 3. Commission will not issue a statement unless all members are in agreement
 - 4. SIFF taking in audiences who would have gone to Boeing IMAX for 70mm screenings; other viewers will go out of Seattle to see IMAX version
 - 5. OED feedback on current draft: Voice does not match Film Commission, editing needed by EOD 6/26/26
 - ii. SFC statement on burglaries updates
 - 1. Film Commission sent letter to SPD, Mayor's Office, and OED
 - 2. Response from Mayor on 6/22/26
 - a. OED Back to Business funding helpful but not enough
 - b. Submit feedback to Mayor to respond to items in letter
 - i. Emergency Relief Fund: many businesses have already applied, and the funding is limited to security upgrades but not equipment
 - ii. How can the Commission work with the city to help with insurance company discussions on premiums
 - iii. Convene a roundtable ASAP
 - 1. Chris to pick dates with SPD and Mayor's Office
 - 2. Commission to invite community and companies impacted by burglaries
 - 3. Organized moderation during the roundtable
 - c. Impact of burglaries on receiving insurance in an already limited insurance company availability in Seattle
 - i. Cost of insurance hikes affect all businesses in Seattle
 - ii. OED staff to look into insurance
 - iii. Seattle Film Commission tools
 - 1. Commissioner Handbook (document)
 - a. Working to develop a handbook that other commissions have
 - b. OED to develop and Commission to provide feedback and edits
 - 2. Commissioner Onboarding & Resources (webpage)
 - 3. Standards and Norms
 - iv. Seattle Film Commissioner onboarding – July
- d. Commitments and events
 - i. Previous events
 - 1. SIFF Opening Night / Mayor's Film Awards (OED)
 - 2. June 3 Inside Scoop "Film Storytelling + Sarah screening"



- 3. Arts Commission mixer
 - ii. Inside Scoop
 - 1. Cadence
 - 2. 2026 scheduling – All Commissioners
 - iii. Future guests
 - 1. Fall – Amazon
 - e. Visiting guests
 - i. Mayor Katie B. Wilson, staffed by Cheryl Delostrinos – Discussion
 - 1. Commercial Film Initiative: work with legislator and WA Filmworks for more tax credit support
 - 2. Permitting: 1 stop shop; very easy to film in Seattle as compared to other cities
 - 3. SPD Bonus time for staffing: Part of SPD and City CBA
 - 4. Sales Tax effect on film productions: Work with City lobbyist on options
- 3. Adjourn