



**Seattle Film Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 23, 2026, 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

City Hall Boards & Commissions Room and Virtual

Commissioners Present: Champ Ensminger, Mark Freid, KD Hall, Michael Huang, Kat Ogden, Davis Powell, LexScope

Commissioners Not Present: Tom Florino

Staffed by Office of Economic Development: Chris Swenson, Hana Peoples

*Note: These are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 4/24/23 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
    - i. Michael: Incoming Position 11 Commissioner, observing today, no comments
2. General Order of Business
  - a. Approval of January 2025 meeting minutes
    - i. Approved
  - b. Position 1 and Position 11 – Updates
    - i. Position 11: Council Committee scheduled for March 6
    - ii. Position 1: Openings will be posted to the public, SFC will make recommendation(s) to Mayor's office which makes the appointment
    - iii. Positions 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 are also up for appointments at end of April
    - iv. SFC recommends bundle all positions for April
  - c. OED
    - i. Commercial Film Initiative update
      1. April 2, 4-6pm: Meeting to roll out commercial filmmaking initiative
      2. All Commissioners to be invited
      3. SFC may present as host/co-host
    - ii. Seattle Film Ecosystem conversations
      1. Meetings to meet with local theaters and film organizations to understand new changes and structures across the Seattle film ecosystem
      2. Jill, ED of Northwest Film Forum will attend
      3. SIFF: No ED updates
      4. Harbor Island Studios: Commission is interested in connecting with with KC Film Advisory Board and help support continuation of HIS; Kat will reach out to KC FAB lead(s)
    - iii. Mayor's Film Award restructure
      1. 20<sup>th</sup> year of Mayor's Film Award
      2. City is interested in making updates to the award to move away from a singular award and create more opportunity with three awards to a person or entity who has contributed to film production excellence in Seattle
        - a. Legacy, Emerging Filmmaker, and Support Person/Agency/Organization



3. Commercial agencies can be considered; SFC recommends focusing on individuals within commercial agencies and production companies rather than awarding the company
4. OED will share a document outlining awards
- d. Committee updates
  - i. Branding and Marketing
    1. Team Deakins opportunity (Champ)
      - a. A week of programming, including screenings and opportunity for local film industry to mingle
      - b. Meetings have taken place between Team Deakins and various Seattle area film organizations
      - c. Commission to discuss budget and participation
    2. Social media structure presentation (KD)
      - a. Executive Summary
      - b. Marketing strategies to bring new viewers to Instagram and sharing work of the Commission
      - c. Understanding of time expectations in volunteering time to social media
      - d. City cannot administer social media, must be done by Commission
  - ii. Policy and Initiatives
    1. FIFA planning and one-sheet proposal
      - a. FIFA matches will bring construction moratoriums and limited City resources for filmmakers needing city support for their productions (police)
      - b. Recommend SFC creates a one-sheet to share information out to filmmakers about awareness of impacts to productions, and opportunities for crew and productions to get involved
    2. Washington Filmworks film crew database feedback
      - a. Is the database functional and robust to refer FIFA or other productions?
        - i. Facebook Production Peeps is seen to be used more
        - ii. Word of mouth or networking is more commonly used
        - iii. When making recommendations, rarely point to database
        - iv. When hiring:
          1. Often go to resources that offer more diversity
          2. Have used the database but not often
          3. Use the database as a back up if regulars are not available
      - b. Question: Does Seattle need its own specific database?
      - c. Recommendation: Washington Filmworks perform a survey to ask if/how database is being used and where people are finding jobs
- e. Committee reorganization
  - i. Review new structure review and vote
    1. Proposed committee restructure: 1) Public Policy (new); 2) Workforce & Professional Development (new); 3) Branding & Marketing (no changes)
    2. Commissioner and Chair committee selection(s)
      - a. Public Policy: Chair-Mark; Members: Kat, Anthony, Davis,
      - b. Workforce & Professional Development: Chair-Tom; Anthony, Lex
      - c. Branding & Marketing: Chair-Champ; Members: Anthony, KD, Michael, Lex
      - d. Vote to Approve: Approved
    3. Monthly meeting schedule



a. 2nd week Committee  
Meeting, 3rd Week: Executive Meeting, 4th Week: Full Commission  
Meeting

f. Commitments and events

- i. Inside Scoop – Cadence, assignments, location discussion
  1. Last Wednesday of March for next issue; last Wednesday or Thursdays for future issues
  2. Milli Agency Office as the meeting space
- ii. Previous
  1. January 26 – Mayor Wilson Arts & Culture Transition Team at Town Hall Seattle
- iii. Upcoming
  1. March 6 – City Council
  2. March 23 – Mayor Wilson Commission meeting invitation
  3. March 23-26 – AFCI Conference
    - a. KD to represent the Commission

3. Adjourn