

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting

Wed, May 17th, 2023, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

HYBRID Virtual/In-Person

Commissioners Present:

Kitty Wu - Chair, Jason Clackley – Co-Chair, Jessica Toon, Bunnie Moore, Nick Vaerewyck, Adra Boo, Casey Carter, Andrea Freidman, Jovino Santos Neto, Denise Burnside, Jolene Hughes, Keola Kama, Nate Omdal, Andrew Joslyn, Terry Morgan, Paula Madrigal

Commissioners Absent:

Anne O’Dowd, Shannon Welles, Sue Ennis, Eric Lilavois, Julius Caesar Robinson

SMC Staff Present:

Scott Plusquellec, OED

Guests:

Markham McIntyre, Director of the Office of Economic Development
Theresa Kuou, Kinetic West
Arielle Washington, OED
Virginie Nadimi, SDOT Curb Space Team

Call to Order:

The ORDINAL meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Chair Kitty Wu, with a land acknowledgement.

Public Comment:

- No Public Comments

Director McIntyre presentation of Downtown Activation Plan (DAP):

Director McIntyre presented on Mayor Harrell’s Downtown Activation Plan

- Provided overview of Mayor’s vision for Downtown
- Process to look at what was or was not working prior to pandemic
- Who was downtown serving, who was left out
- Environmental impacts, etc.

Key takeaway: Need to empower communities and people to engage and take part.

What does it mean to make downtown an arts/culture/entertainment hub? The Commission can help with this.

- Near term things for arts –
 - more buskers,
 - shop to the beat,
 - short term activations this year.
 - Focus on Fall

- Getting musicians paid, making places for musicians and artists to work and own.
- Cultural events around stadium events.
- Make transit a bigger component to keep people downtown.

Timeline for DAP:

- community engagement right now, nothing is finalized, taking ideas back to mayor for final plan.
- Goal to announce at end of June, and further community engagement.

Q and A –

- Venues, long term, is better than pop ups.
- Would be bigger economic driver.
- How do we protect venues? Is there a way to capture numbers of venues?
- OPCD is working on land use issues and permitting.
- How are things coming back?
 - A lot of venues went away prior to COVID, due to construction in Belltown.
 - Parking is a major point of tension. Artists particularly have issues with their own parking and those of their guests.
- How are Quick wins defined?
 - Le Farmers Market and Buskers in the tunnel.
 - Would like to see plan where buskers aren't showing up playing for free, and hoping to get tips.
 - Make the plan comprehensive that musicians are valued as workers.
 - Including marketing and welfare.

Latino organizations – any way to provide spaces for that community?

Signs in different languages, build into the wayfinding.

Low income parking solutions? Bring in transit orgs.

Director McIntyre departed at 12:55. Action Item – Send out power point presentation and DAP draft to commissioners.

Debrief – Markham seemed pretty open and interested in collaborating, so we need to really continue engaging. Unanswered questions: Budget? Where is the money coming from? Need quick wins that turn into long-term solutions.

SDOT presentation on Musician Parking – Virginie Nadimi, SDOT Curbspace Team

Tasked with addressing the venue parking issues around touring and other musician issues.

Provided overview of issue. [See deck.](#)

Solution that these are sanctioned venues, should regularly be allowed and parking enforcement to understand this.

Musician Prioritized Loading Zones (MPLZ) has always been a compromise.

- Pursue idea of registering musician vehicles as commercial vehicles.
- With proliferation of new parking apps, find some way to use that to track.

- Can we do zoned parking for musicians like residential areas?
- Prepaid parking program for reduced parking for musicians.

Regular Commission Business

- *Approval of Minutes: Due to a lack of quorum at the March meeting, the January minutes are also approved at this meeting.*
 - January Minutes: Jason moved, Bunnie seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions
 - March Minutes: Adra moved, Nick seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions

Adjourned 1:33