

MINUTES
Seattle Music Commission Meeting
Wed, July 16th, 2025, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
HYBRID Virtual/In-Person

Commissioners Present: Jason Clackley – Chair, Jessica Toon – Vice Chair, Keola Kama, Kelli Faryar, Shaina Foley, Denise Burnside, Bunnie Moore, Adra Boo, Jovino Santos Neto, Jordan Leonard, Nick Varewyck, Olivia Hamilton, Shannon Welles

Commissioners Absent: Casey Carter, Eric Lilavois, Julius Caesar Robinson, Anne O’Dowd; Andrea Friedman: Christina Frappia; Andrew Joslyn; Nick Turner

SMC Staff Present: Scott Plusquellec, OED

Guests: Jordan Swider and Leigh Bezezekoff, WANMA; David Shannen

Call to Order: The ORDINAL meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chair Jason Clackley, with a land acknowledgement and review of the agenda.

Public Comment: David Shannen – still offering services for scanning venues and art galleries, recently picked up Sea Monster and Vera Project

Regular Commission Business: Approval of Minutes: Jessica moved, Keola seconded, All in favor, minutes approved.

WA Music Census:

Jordan and Leigh provided an overview of the WA Music Census data, which was conducted over the 1st part of 2025 and funded by the WA Department of Commerce and Seattle Office of Economic Development. The census captured both quantitative and qualitative data relating to the realities and perceptions of those working in the WA music ecosystem, including musicians, venue operators and non-performing workers. Full report will be released to public in August/September of this year.

General Discussion:

How will this be used?

Inform stewardship of local music ecosystem,

- need to push this info out to people not steeped in it like we are
- getting to officials in government and other decision-making bodies,
- artists advocacy – need to decide what the opportunities there are to involve people.

- Figure out the stakeholders.

Census taught that we need financial literacy for artists as most artists don't know how to track their music income the way they non music income. People don't know that they can access the resources already available, so sharing this information to help those people find those resources

This will help us develop programs and policies that will make the next census data better. WANMA working with film, retail, other sectors

How do we break down the tension of whether this is representing venue and workers more than artists – any perceived tension?

SMC is launching comms platforms so any materials WANMA is developing we can share out.

Be interested to see generationally where people are, because older artists are hitting up against younger artists who are seemingly able to just post online and get a hit.

How does this information help people to stay here? Glad to have this information out there.

WANMA talking about getting playlists out to advertisers to generate new income streams. Also filmmakers. Building out a tour routing across AK, OR , WA, ID.

Candidates for commission seat vacancies:

Commissioners provided multiple names to add to a list of potential candidates. It was decided that commission would hold time at the September meeting for Executive Session to privately vet and discuss all the names.

Committee Updates:

Advocacy and Econ Devo: No updates from FIFA on proposal but King County Creative is on board with the idea.

Youth and Community: No chair available to provide updates

Comms – rebrand and comms strategy has launched, Instagram page up, thanks to all who participated and sent in headshots and bios. Continue to do so!

Meeting Adjourned at 1:27