

MINUTES
Seattle Music Commission Meeting
Wed, May 20th, 2026, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
HYBRID Virtual/In-Person

<u>Commissioners Present:</u>	Adra Boo, Andrea Freidman, Bunnie Moore, Christina Frappia; Janice Jimenez; Kelli Faryar, Keola Kama; Marshall Hugh Massengale; Ryan Devlin; Seven Sky; Tina Marie Tyler
<u>Commissioners Absent:</u>	Andrew Joslyn; Anne O’Dowd; Eric Lilivois: Jason Clackley; Jordan Leonard; K Van Petten; Nick Turner; Olivia Hamilton; Shaina Foley
<u>SMC Staff Present:</u>	Scott Plusquellec, OED
<u>Guests:</u>	Steven Devore
<u>Call to Order:</u>	The ORDINAL meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Chair Jason Clackley, with land acknowledgement and review of the agenda.
<u>Public Comment:</u>	Steven talked about the need for companies to hire local union workers and not bring in external workers. Money is going down and costs going up. Back of house workers are seeing fewer shows to work on.
<u>Regular Commission Business:</u>	Approval of November, January and March minutes. Andrea moved, Seven seconded, all in favor, no abstentions.

Recap of SMC panel at Cre8te Summit – Tina and Seven

Tina – Summit was great, wonderful opportunity to let folks know about the Commission and what we are working on.

Seven – more film creators than music creators, shared some high-level view of the Advocacy committee recommendations. Not a huge turnout of participants, more presenters. Lack of marketing.

Tina- spoke with organizer who came in hot about OED and the music commission, people feeling left out especially in music, need to be able to address when people come to us with these feelings.

Black Music Month event proposal -Tina

Tina shared a proposal for a June event highlighting the month as Black music month –

- what does that mean in Seattle? Missed opportunity for us to support black musicians and music in Seattle.
- Looking for a partner like Boys and Girls Club for low cost.
- Looking to pay musicians, panelists, understand that Commission has very limited budget,
- need to make decision on how we as a body want to do this outreach.
- Would like SMC to have leadership on these types of events.
- Andrea – SMC can point people to resources like grants and funding. Is there avenues for the Commission to advocate for city funds? Look at neighborhood funds at Parks and other agencies.
- Marshall - Aug 28th at Fremont Fridays is all black fronted bands, or Black and Loud Festival. How do we support these?
- Maybe something already happening at Black and Tan that we can pilot with.
- Look to do 2027 and partner with some of these other orgs.
- Tina – need to get public private partnerships. Boeing, Amazon, etc spend money on music.
- Africatown is doing a Juneteenth event, - send email to commission to think of ideas to advocate for that.

Advocacy and Econ Development Workplan Recommendations – Shaina/Keola

The Advocacy & Economic Development Committee presented a framework for organizing and prioritizing potential 2026 advocacy initiatives using feasibility, urgency, impact, and commissioner expertise as evaluation criteria.

- After internal polling and evaluation, several key priorities consistently emerged, centered around economic sustainability, public investment, independent ecosystem support, representation, and music education.
- Three/four major initiative categories were highlighted:
 1. Arts & Culture B&O tax reform and improving access to small business grants/resources.
 2. Live music infrastructure pilot concepts, and a potential Seattle Music Laureate program.
 3. Music education support and strengthening Seattle’s independent music school ecosystem.
- Discussion around B&O tax reform and grant access focused on how independent artists, venues, promoters, and festival operators are often excluded from existing systems due to nontraditional business models and pass-through revenue structures.
- The live music infrastructure discussion focused on developing small pilot reimbursement programs that could incentivize venues to intentionally book local artists while reducing financial risk for venues. Austin’s Live Music Fund, hotel tax structure, and liquor tax rebate models were referenced as examples worth studying further.
- Commissioners discussed the importance of coalition building between artists, venues, policymakers, tourism groups, and community organizations to help advocacy efforts gain momentum.
- The Music Laureate proposal was discussed as a tangible opportunity modeled after Seattle’s existing Poet Laureate framework, creating a visible citywide champion for music and local artists.
 - K has reached out to folks managing the Poet Laureate program to learn more about how it was developed, costs, etc.

- Ryan and Seven shared early findings from outreach to independent music schools, including concerns around national franchise expansion, educator compensation, and the broader economic impact of local music education programs.
- Commissioners also discussed barriers to music education access for youth, particularly students of color, including instrument costs and access to affordable lessons, as well as expanding pathways into production, AV, engineering, and other behind-the-scenes music industry careers.

New Commissioners need and change of process - Scott

Scott shared a concept for a new commissioner application process

- Current system of soliciting names is not working
- Too cumbersome and makes the Commission too dependent on current commissioners networks
- Need a larger pool to draw from to get wider experience and backgrounds
- Proposal to model application process on Film Commission process
- Would also help involve Mayor's office and Council more in the process and give them actual choices to appoint

General agreement to move forward on development of the application process for 2027. Still need names to fill the six seats about to open at end of August.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30