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**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

(due to ARTS at King Street Station closure)

**Commissioners present:** Holly Jacobson, Dhyana Garcia, Ricky Graboski, Kayla DeMonte, Yoon Kang-O’Higgins, Leslie Anderson, Avery Barnes, Carmen Pan

**Staff in attendance**: Allie Lee, Kelly Davidson

**Guests:** Devin Speak (Earshot Jazz), Carolyn Siden (Seattle Indies)

**Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:04)**

* Kayla called the meeting at 4:14pm.
* Land acknowledgement by Holly.
* Approval of minutes
  + Avery moved to approve the November and December minutes pending Vanessa’s edits to the December minutes via email. Leslie seconded the motion. Approved.
* No public comments.

**Directors Report  
Briefing: Kelly Davidson**

* ARTS Strategic Planning update – working with Community Attributes to design final product. Delivery is early March and will be ready to share around that time. This is a 5-year internal plan.
* [Open Council seat](https://www.seattle.gov/cityclerk/council-vacancy) – there are 20 applications to be evaluated; Council votes on new member on 1/27. This position will sit on our committee; public can track process through committee meetings and Council website.
* 2025 ARTS budget adds overview
  + Operational Support – $2M in 2025 and 2026=total 4M
  + Ballard murals – Jump Start funds $100K
  + In and around Cal Anderson murals – Jump Start $250K
  + CM Hollingsworth - $4.7 million to the Office of Arts and Culture to provide grants to support arts and cultural preservation programs focusing on historically marginalized communities.  
    2025 = $1,000,000  
    2026 = $1,000,000  
    2027 = $1,000,000  
    2028 = $1,000,000  
    2029 = $685,000
  + Holly – Downtown activations funding - will it go through CIC?
    - Kelly – Will follow up.
  + Kelly – Still need to meet with CM Hollingsworth to learn more details (meeting scheduled for late January) and will report back.
  + More on ARTS budget - [ARTS.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/FinanceDepartment/2526proposedbudget/ARTS.pdf)
* Longest Night event at ARTS was very successful.
  + <https://artbeat.seattle.gov/2025/01/02/longest-night-recap/>
  + Quote from attendee -  *Dear Rana and City of Seattle arts dept team,*

*Kudos to the City of Seattle's Longest Night solstice celebration last night. I have been to many arts and/or community events, and what made Longest Night different and better is that there was an aliveness to the evening, a sense of a space that could hold not only all of us, as members of the community, but all of the many emotions we carried, and have been carrying since November. To be honest, I was expecting an event attended by and created for dominant culture folks; to my surprise and delight, I found an extraordinarily diverse crowd with a range of activities that made it easy to choose activities that matched my vibe. It is one of the best truly community-centered and community-inspired events I have attended in the past decade. It was extraordinary.*

*Clearly, so much hard work went into last night's events. Though I didn't quite get past my own socialization of not touching artwork in the touching art exhibit area, I greatly appreciated how that one simple allowance/invitation subverted what I have known and have been told and trained to do as an art patron--be quiet, don't touch anything. Last night was the opposite, and I left feeling an immense calm in my core and release in my bones and an incredible sense of wonder tickling my brain.*

* + We want to do events like this again.
* Director’s letter went out with year-end information/statistics
  + [2024: A Year in Arts & Culture - Art Beat](https://artbeat.seattle.gov/2025/01/07/2024-a-year-in-arts-culture/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

**Co-Chairs Report  
Briefing: Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson**

* Reorient to 2025 SAC Goals
  + Successfully advocate for retaining Admissions Tax Revenue in 2025-2026 budget
  + Grow connections with existing arts and culture ecosystems to build advocacy power, support fellow arts conveners, and expand understanding of sectoral needs
    - Holly proposes each commissioner to connect with partners like Seattle Center, CEO roundtable, Film Commission, Music Commission, Cultural Districts, etc.
  + Strengthen marketing and outreach for ARTS grants and programs focusing on under-invited artists and arts organizations
  + Rebuild Commission administration and governance
    - Holly and Kayla are in their final year and would like to build a more robust executive committee before their departure.
    - Planning to be stricter about attendance and would like to encourage full participation / level set.
* How will each of the committees work on these goals?
  + Avery – Can we identify certain tasks or create a shared checklist? Drafted prompts and easy access material is helpful. We need ways to improve accountability.
    - Kayla – Thinking about low barrier methods and quick hits to circulate through committees.
    - Avery – Need to be in contact with media sources.
  + Yoon – Who are the Chairs/Co-Chairs of the committees?
    - CIC – Avery is stepping in February, and Megan will join in July.
    - PAAC – Yolanda is new chair and encouraging a co-chair
    - FED – Ricky
  + Holly – Would like committees to revisit goals and purpose this year
* Allie provided an overview of the SAC new member recruitment process. Will follow up with instructions and materials to review and vote on.
* CM Rinck is the new chair of the council committee overseeing ARTS.
  + Kayla proposes SAC to schedule meeting with CM Rinck
  + Holly also proposes to schedule meetings with all councilmembers.
* At the February meeting we will talk about identifying our 2025 retreat date
* Would like stronger governance for SAC. Please let us know when you can’t attend a meeting.
  + This also applies to committees. Attendance and communications are key to commission work.
* We had talked about doing quarterly deep dive updates for committees (vs. 5 min updates we’ve been doing at end of meetings). Let try this out starting next month and see how it goes.
  + February – PAAC
  + March – CIC
  + April – FED

**Around the Room Announcements  
Briefing: All**

* Avery – reopened Taswira Gallery at 120 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104
  + [Solo exhibition by Cristina Martinez](https://taswira.org/?srsltid=AfmBOooOYOD6E4b3jCTDQkUYhKJ7foud7BHWk6u2g8qjQsDxm-loC2dN)
  + [Art in reflection 2025 award](https://taswira.org/pages/art-in-reflection-2025-award)
* Yoon – [Waterfront programming roster](https://waterfrontparkseattle.org/programming-roster/) – adding partners for full grand opening celebration
* Holly - Path with Art’s upcoming art exhibition! *Threads of Connection* will open on Thursday, January 23 and be on display at the artHOME through March 27. <https://www.pathwithart.org/>
* Dhyana – Vanessa and Dhyana are creating a valentine’s day dance experience. More to come and will share out.
* Leslie – [Sami Film Festival](https://nordicmuseum.org/events/sami-film-festival)
* Kayla - Inspire WA email list – WA state arts, heritage, and science lobbying week, a good opportunity to practice advocacy skills. <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Sign-Up-to-Meet-With-Lawmakers-in-Olympia-.html?soid=1127399030665&aid=WxMPvKYonF0>

Meeting adjourned at 5:14pm.