**SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION**

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Hybrid Meeting - In-Person @ King Street Station 3rd Floor Panel Room OR Zoom

**Commissioners present:** Vanessa Villalobos, Vee Hua, Kayla DeMonte, Holly Jacobson, Leslie Anderson

**Staff in attendance**: Gülgün Kayim, Ashraf Hasham, Allie McGehee, Blake Haygood, Kathy Hsieh

**Guests:** Alicia Mullikin

**Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:00)**

**Introductions**

**Public Comment**

* No public comment.

**September and October Minutes Approval**

* Vanessa flagged some corrections needed
* SAC will send any corrections to Allie L; SAC will review corrected minutes and approve next meeting

**Artist Presentation  
Presenter: Alicia Mullikin**

* Working on a project with El Sueno (the dream); name is in reference to the American Dream
* Event coming up with focus on dance
  + Artists coming from all over
* Event coming up is called Mestizo
  + Dance focus with dancers from Mexico, Texas, California
  + Focus is love of family and community
  + Event will be at Mini Mart City Park, a small gallery
  + December 8 + 9, two performances each day
  + One of the pieces that will be shared is a short film with/honoring Alicia’s grandmother
    - (Pause to watch the short video)
  + Links
    - MESTIZO PROGRAMhttps://www.aliciamullikin.com/mestizoprogram
    - LA PRIMERA REINAhttps://vimeo.com/445634912
    - Tickets: <https://www.aliciamullikin.com/mestizo-tickets>
* Question about location
  + Went to a lot of locations after the first one had terms that didn’t recognize the artists/work in their cost split proposal
  + Gave use of the space in kind at the Mini Mart and allowed us to rehearse in kind
  + Mini Mart is small art gallery. No seating. Being creative – comfortably 40-50 people.

**Co-Chairs Report  
Briefing: Vee Hua, Vanessa Villalobos**

* *Filling empty commissioner seat* (vee). Hopefully we can vote someone in today. Sophia is not going to continue (SAC appointed) so we can fill it ourselves. Puling names from previous commissioners, new recommendations.
  + Names -- Those under discussion
    - Yolanda Spencer
      * Note: Yolanda Spencer – also on the Council track for SAC membership
    - Joel B. Tan (Wing Luke)
    - Linda Lowry
    - Diana Garcia
    - Megan Kiskaddon
    - Malia Peoples
  + Holly – Supportive of Yolanda, Joel, Linda, but who else do we have bios on?
  + Vee – Not sure we have information on everyone.
  + Holly – Propose keeping discussion to those we have bios on
    - Q: Could we get an update on the MO process for filling MO SAC seats?
      * Allie Lee has that information; guidance was check in with MO is first step and then will be able to provide info to SAC
    - Request from Holly – Reach out to those who applied early to make sure they are still interested
  + **Proposal/Decision: SAC members will vote on filling the SAC-appointed seat by email. Members will send Allie Lee one name (not rank choice) by Friday and CC SAC inbox.**
    - Vee will send Linda’s bio.
* Strategic Plan
  + Vanessa will report back next month.

**Wave Rave Cave Deaccession  
Briefing: Blake Haygood**

* See Handout from Blake
* History of the Wave, Rave, Cave piece, current status
  + Temporary exhibition; intended to be ephemeral
  + Have documentary evidence of the piece which will live on
  + Cannot reuse the component parts
  + Have reached out to the artist/right of first refusal – has moved to Hawaii
* PAAC recommends to deaccession the piece; SAC needs to approve that decision
  + Leslie (PAAC): rationale for deaccessioning is sound
* SAC Discussion
  + Should the artist be approached around how we recognize the piece/how they would want it to be commemorated
  + Call for pictures or celebration of the piece before it is taken down?
    - Piece is hard to access, piled under a bridge. Can reach out to Dan (artist) around online commemoration, other
    - Vee – Vanishing Seattle might be a good outlet
  + Discussion around how we maintain exhibit/meaning of permanence; ongoing topic will need to continue to discuss/review
    - Blake – it’s similar to conversation on aging infrastructure. We don’t have the money // how do we maintain, how do we add, etc.
* **Vote to deaccession/Decision – Vee (1), Leslie (2) – Vote yes to deaccession this piece with recommendation to reach out to the artist to see if there is something meaningful they would like us to support. (unanimous) – Vee, Leslie, Vanessa, Yeggy, Holly**

**Director’s Report  
Briefing: Gülgün Kayim**

* Budget:
  + Letter from SAC on 10/30 recommended $143 ongoing for grants
  + Funding for African Cultural Arts Center
    - Physical space; we will recommend it goes to OPCD to manage the contract
  + Chinese Legacy Project
    - Importance of the history/commemoration
    - Morales proposed $500k; listened to SAC letter and adjusted to $250k
  + Council listened to you; SAC is a powerful voice. Piece to keep in mind for next year//how do we handle these overages. Council is looking for recommendations and it’s a dialogue we have to have.
  + ARTS position -- Disagree with the $250k for Wing Luke. The nuance on our point has to do with revenue source. People have asked to use arts & culture for art project; now have a precedent. Economic issue and takes away resources and sets precedent where everyone comes asking.
    - Arts & culture fund – grants/ad tax
    - Municipal art fund – sculpture
  + SAC discussion of the Wing Luke add
    - Kayla – getting a process and timeline down so we can be in communication.
    - GK – it’s not about the project
      * Important legacy but doesn’t include maintenance
      * Private project not public
      * Were no dollars available in municipal art//used the arts & culture fund
      * We saw that with SIFF
      * Loses the competitive process/precedent argument
    - V – could you clarify how the initial ask for $500k come about.
      * GK – Wing Luke approached Morales
      * V – how did it happen?
      * GK – came through her staff. We provided other options that were in line with revenue streams but were not successful.
      * V – important to keep relationships with council’s staff
      * GK – yes. Let’s think about this. Agenda setting for next year. Let’s talk about revenue streams, process in our plan for next year. Need to see which committee is the best place. Council has asked us to identify recommendations on what to do with overages. Ad tax 🡪 putting it back into the ecology/economy (house girding). Municipal art – making one piece.
    - Kathy – haven’t had grants funding increases in over a decade. And that was after a hit to budget. We are funneling money as much as we can. 241 organizations we are trying to support//at the time of the last time we supported 100. We are so appreciative of $143k//could have used the extra resources. The more we can advocate for strengthening the entire ecology, that will support the entire ecosystem. Your voice is so important, and they listen to you.
* Deputy Director hiring process
  + GK - We embarked on the initial step of deputy hiring process. Promised it would be open process. We are coming to you to engage on those steps. Turning it over to Ashraf.
  + AH – Looking for deputy
    - Engaging staff on qualities needed in this role
    - Will reach out to Executive meeting on Friday for input; if you aren’t going to be there, please email [ashraf.hasham@seattle.gov](mailto:ashraf.hasham@seattle.gov) with thoughts/input

**Committee Updates  
Briefing: Committee Chairs**

* FED
  + FED cochair is not here
  + Prior workplan. 30% of city is reflected in 6% of its cultural space. Deepest disparities in arts & culture (2021)
  + We are moving forward with holding meeting for this month
  + Focus will be listening to see where people are at; membership has not changed. Goal was to diversify membership. Would like to find a way to include more diversity/not limited to current.
* CIC
  + Holly and kayla had great meeting with Gülgün and Ashraf
  + Meeting this coming Thursday
  + Build membership
  + Support and advise on art grant process and allocations and developing advocacy plan
  + This was a good conversation to have so we can get clarity on what we need to do
  + Holly/Kayla focused on it
  + Need more members.
  + Holly – city funding structures are complicated; need to educate/understand
* PAAC
  + Thanks Molly Spetalnick from the design commission for serving on PAAC
  + Jill Crary will be joining PAAC to fill Molly’s position
  + We want to welcome any interested/proposed new members
  + Last October meeting was brief but impactful

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.