

IS THE OFFICE OF FILM + MUSIC (OFM) GOING AWAY?

No. The work of OFM and its current staff will continue.

The current OFM team will continue to do what it's always done. The Mayor asked OFM to help lead the City's new Creative Industries program.

The goal is to do what we've always done while also ensuring underserved populations, particularly youth of color, are prepared for the future.

WHAT ABOUT THE NAME?

There are no plans to change the OFM name.

WHAT IS THE "INCLUSIVE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PROGRAM"?

It's a working title.

OFM currently oversees more than just film and music. For example, it includes Special Events and Nightlife. In order to modernize the work of OFM, we are developing a new framework for how these creative industries work together.

SO, WHAT IS CHANGING?

We're adding capacity and expanding our focus.

OFM advocacy for and support of the film, music, nightlife, and special events industries will continue, with additional staffing

We are just aligning OFM with the Office of Economic Development more so that it can leverage resources and investments of other OED programs.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OFFICE OF FILM + MUSIC DIRECTOR ROLE?

It will continue with more support.

The existing Director of the Office of Film + Music role will be redefined to call out the work the position has overseen. In addition, there will be more support for all of this work through new, dedicated Film and Special Events program managers.

HOW IS THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OED) INVOLVED?

OFM has always been a part of OED and will continue to be so.

WILL OFM CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FILM, PERMITTING, NIGHTLIFE AND SPECIAL EVENTS?

Yes!

Film permitting: Providing one-stop, full-service film coordination through the Seattle Master Film Permit

Film production: Developing and supporting initiatives to attract and retain film business and production in Seattle

Music: Working with the Seattle Music Commission and other City departments to advance the City of Music Vision

Special Events: Providing policy guidance, management, coordination, permitting, and leadership of the Special Events Committee for oversight of major public events

Nightlife: Providing assistance to nightlife businesses and leadership for Seattle's nightlife policies

Policy: Prioritizing film, music, nightlife, and special events in policy development for the creative industries

WHO WILL SUPPORT THE MUSIC COMMISSION?

The same person who currently is: The Creative Economy Advocate.

The Creative Economy Advocate is currently a part of the OED but has been funded by ARTS for the last three years. We're just moving the position over to ARTS on the organizational chart. **The Music Commission will function in the same capacity as it has in the past with support from OFM and Arts**, positioned to better coordinate the advocacy work between the Music and Arts Commissions, and to explore ways to achieve collective impact across creative industries, including film, special events, and festivals.

ARE YOU LOSING STAFF OR STAFF CAPACITY?

No. Staffing is actually increasing.

Here are examples of what we're proposing:

Film + Special Events Manager will become two dedicated roles: Film Manager and Special Events Manager

Adding a full time Creative Industries Policy Advisor

Adding dedicated Film Permitting support staff during peak seasons

Assigning 10% of the entire OED's staff to support film and music by launching new efforts which include the OED Key Industries, Small Business, Business Districts, and Workforce teams

IS THIS CHANGE CONSISTENT WITH OFM'S CURRENT MISSION?

Yes.

The OFM mission is to support and equitably grow the creative economy, with a focus on strengthening the film, music, nightlife, and special events sectors. Additionally, the changes expand upon OFM's stated focus on equity by centering in racial equity.

DID YOU CONSULT THE FILM, MUSIC, AND EVENTS INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES ON THESE CHANGES?

Yes.

Over the course of the last 8 months we met with over 70 film industry stakeholders representing unions, crews, producers, companies, educators, non-profits and location managers which resulted in a rigorous report on priorities and recommendations for the industry at large. Before this report was finalized, we reviewed and obtained the approval of this report from that group of stakeholders. These recommendations have and will continue to inform our vision and decisions for the future. We also met with over 80 events and music industry stakeholders, and worked in step with the Seattle Music Commission.

But we recognize that changes like this can feel alarming and can seemingly lack transparency. We are trying to build the foundation for the future of our industries so that we are as well prepared as we can be. It can be challenging to balance this sense of urgency with every voice, but we continue to be committed to listening and serving our community, you.

Please reach out directly at any time with feedback, questions, or suggestions as we press forward together.