

Seattle Film Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 27, 2023, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM



Seattle Film Commissioners: Beth Barrett, Laura Jean Cronin, Lowell Deo, Champ Ensminger, Tom Florino, Mark Freid, Michael Huang, Kat Ogden, Melissa Purcell, Anthony Tackett

Staffed By Office of Economic Development: Chris Swenson, Taylor Durand-Scaggs

Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 09/25/2023 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.

Roll Call

- Quorum confirmed

Public Comment

- Kim Lowe, SAG AFTRA Seattle Local – States her presence, no additional comment

General Order of Business

- SIFF Cinema Grand Opening
 - Seattle Film Commission acknowledges SIFF and announcement of December grand opening of SIFF Cinema Downtown (formerly Cinerama)
- Review and approve 10/23/23 meeting minutes
 - Unanimous vote to approve
- Review of past commitments and events
 - Seattle Film Commission + Music Commission annual meeting – November 15
 - Budi Mulyo: SMC is not as clear as to their goals as SFC; understand there is not a similar emerging tech position on the SMC, and they aren't prepared for what's coming
 - Michael Huang: SMC has been around for a long time, have done great work that has touched him personally and professionally. Need to find the spaces that do work between commissions. Overlapping items on the Ven diagram, some won't work and some will. Opportunity for us to lead, and space for them to lead on other things. A lot of opportunity to accomplish great things together.
 - Tom Florino: Recommend considering creating an executive committee between the three commissions, Seattle Film Commission and Seattle Music Commission and Seattle Arts Commission.
 - Mark Freid: Propose finding a couple focus projects that would be good to work together on.

- Beth Barret: Loved the meeting with Seattle Music Commission. Propose working across commissions to find what items we can work on together.
 - Melissa Purcell: Recommend SMC and SFC meeting near the beginning of the year once we have our plans together then a meeting in the fall, longer than just the 90 minute meetings.
 - Laura Jean Cronin: Believe there is opportunity to overlap with both the Music and the Arts Commissions.
 - Kat: Ask that the coordinated work between commissions scheduled and supported by OED.
- Preview of upcoming commitments and events
 - Washington Filmworks Annual Industry Update - 6:00 PM December 7 (virtual)
 - SFC Summit & Movie - January 2024
 - 2024 City of Seattle Creative Economy Career Day – February 2024
 - 2024 AFCI - March 2024
 - Proposing a panel with Seattle Film Commission and Washington Filmworks
 - Working to finalize plan with the AFCI board now
 - Expected to be in the 3rd or 4th week of March
- Committee and workgroup updates
 - Economic and Workforce Development (Tom Florino)
 - Three-pronged plan
 - Promoting independent productions
 - Seattle Film Commission can perform convening, showing local vendors and production companies, on how to take advantage of local resources
 - Promoting commercial and industrial production
 - 2024 Q1 test concept: Collaborative opportunity to educate. Bring several Film Commissioners in the room with Amazon and global managers, ask what they need and what resources are available. Take this experience to other local companies, developing into broader corporate discussions
 - Attracting major productions
 - Work with OED and other film office organizations to keep local production work and companies working here
 - Policy (Mark Fried)
 - Presents draft of priority recommendations
 - Finalizing with Committee and Executive Committee
 - Delivering to full Commission in December
 - Marketing, Branding and Initiatives (Beth Barrett)
 - 2023 branding will begin
 - 2024 January build talking points and workplans
 - 2024 Q1 present workplan publicly
 - 2024 Q2 begin mixer and outward branding models, leading into Creative Economy Career Day and AFCI
- 2023 SFC Year-End report
 - Released January 2024, will include Committee priority recommendations and issues addressed in 2023
- January 2024 City Council – Committee presentation and meeting incoming Councilmembers

- OED working to identify process for scheduling these meetings

Presentations

- King County Creative (Kate Becker)
 - See attached presentation deck
 - Tom Florino: Asks if Harbor Island Studios may be available for a Career Day site visit; asks about EV chargers or solar panel availability
 - Budi Mulyo: Has LED screen opportunity recommendations; would like to see about inviting tech workers as potential producers or bankrolling some production
 - Anthony Tackett: Thanks for the Seattle Film Institute tour; would like to discuss other schools for tours; requests another open house
 - Chris Swenson (OED): Requests coordination of marketing and outreach with City of Seattle, and share with Seattle Film Commission as it is a stated priority; Request working with City of Seattle film office on development of permit platform and release to public
- Creative Economy Career Day (Connors & Co./OED)
 - See attached presentation deck
 - Michael Huang: Interested in what type of underserved community outreach is happening outside of Seattle, would like to connect
 - Laura Jean Cronin: Would like to connect regarding multiple education organization recommendations
 - Budi Mulyo: Seattle AI Society meeting in December, might be a good connection; want to connect with immersive art component; recommend reaching out to Apple and Meta; would like to connect in general
 - Kat Ogden: Recommend ensuring labor unions are a part of the program

Office of Economic Development

- 2024 City of Seattle Supplemental Budget update
 - City Council has approved the 2024 supplemental budget
 - Budget includes ongoing \$10K funding for Seattle Film Commission beginning in 2024
 - Budget includes \$1.5M “skill up” workforce development funding
- City production office space @ KCTS building
 - Continuing work to use the building in part as film production office space
 - Filmmaker survey to come once finalized

Upcoming

- January presentation ideas

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn – Unanimous vote to approve