

**MINUTES**

**Seattle Music Commission Meeting**

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 12:15 – 2:00 p.m.*

Seattle Municipal Tower Room 4050/4060

**Commissioners Present:**

Jody McKinley (presiding), Ricardo Frazer, Wyking Garrett, Alex Kochan, Tim Lennon, DeVon Manier, John Roderick, Patty Isacson Sabee, Joan Sandler, Nicole Jon Sievers, Jon Stone, Reese Tanimura, Karen P. Thomas, Nadine Zgonc

**Commissioners Absent:**

Adrian Burton, Holly Hinton, Megan Jasper, Ben London, Tom Mara, Hollis Wong-Wear, Marcus Womack

**SMC Staff Present:**

Kate Becker, Julie Borden

**Call to Order:**

The 35th meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Jody McKinley

**Public Comment:**

Songwriting Works (Judith-Kate Friedman)

- Organization on the peninsula that writes songs with communities
- Have written 320 songs involving more than 3,000 people, ages 4-106
- Expanding work throughout Western Washington
- Releasing album, Life's a Song
- Have been subject of documentary

Make Music Day (Ed Beeson)

- Have secured a title sponsor
- Looking for additional sponsors/funders
- Handout

Tula's (Jason Moore and Mack)

- On a month-to-month lease, expect will be evicted from current location due to new ownership and re-development
- Have not been able to find a new location that is affordable
- Works with school groups, hosts majority of Earshot Jazz Festival
- Asking for any assistance with finding a new location to continue 20+ years of work in local Jazz scene
- Need roughly 3,000 square feet (seating for 100); important to be downtown
- 99% of performers are local
- Also restaurant and bar, but is secondary to music

Michael Smith

- No Comments

Claire Michelle

- Local transgender musician active in LGBT community

**Approval of Minutes:** Unanimous Approval of September 16, 2015, Minutes

**AGENDA SECTION/ITEM**

**Regular Commission Business**

**Vote on 2016 Leadership**

- Commission Chair: Jody McKinley unanimously elected
- Commission Vice-Chair: Patty Isacson Sabee unanimously elected
- Youth + Community Committee Chair: Will be decided in subcommittee

**Committee Updates and Discussion**

**Executive Committee**

- Open Commission Seats / Succession Planning
  - Executive Committee has identified a list of potential candidates
  - Meeting with Mayor’s Office representative to discuss
- Ex-officio Committee Planning
  - Holly Hinton and Jon Stone are working on developing recommendations and will share soon
- 2016 Work Plan Planning Meeting
  - Committees have met and discussed their work plans
  - Meeting on January 20, 2016 will be time to share plans and discuss how to measure success

**Youth + Community Priorities for 2016**

- Broaden Outreach
  - Planning for Seattle Center area, Northgate/Lake City, and Rainier Beach
- City of Music Career Day
  - Expanding career day with additional focus on interactive components
  - Continuing partnership with Office of Arts and Culture
- Evolving Road Show program
  - Will become a partnership with Seattle Public Schools
  - Plan to bring culturally relevant artists to Creative Advantage schools
- Super Internship
  - Expanding from 2 interns to 4
  - EMP is taking over administration
  - Hosting organizations are Sub Pop, EMP, Rhapsody, and Seattle Theatre Group

**Advocacy + Economic Development Priorities for 2016**

- Music Business
  - Vulcan is developing music conference that Commission plans to partner
  - Looking at how to support startups and business
  - Partnership with Music Canada is potentially in development
  - Partnering more with OED Startup Advocate, planning to explore developing a music-business accelerator
  - February 13 is slated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Black Music Summit
- City of Music User Experience
  - Airport program is continuing to run successfully and evolve
  - Looking at expanding to other locations
- Waterfront

- Continuing to be involved and finding ways to advocate for music
- Levitt Pavilion
  - Some interest from King County
  - Seattle Parks may still consider; Kate has upcoming meeting with Parks Director
  - Commission members are very interested in continuing to support and come up with creative ways to engage community and gain wider support
- Busking will be part of other initiatives but not considered a separate effort
- Nightlife Initiative
  - OFM is lobbying for staffing to address nightlife issues and advocacy
- Strategizing for developing budget/funding

### **Special Guest: Mayor Murray**

#### Mayor's Remarks

- First public policy activity in Seattle was serving on a commission
- Commitment to advancing arts, music, culture in Seattle
- Thanks Commission for work on Career Day, has a commitment to youth employment
- Thanks Kate for leadership in music
- Ricardo: talk about plans to address affordability for artists and musicians
- How do we take advantage of a good thing but not lose other good things
- What are the partnerships that can be developed to preserve and create arts spaces
- HALA addresses issues of housing affordability, looking at ways to also support business
- City owns facilities that could be better utilized
- Looking at how to incentive building arts spaces in developments
- Examining how zoning might change, particularly retail space

#### Questions and Answers

Jody: How do we facilitate exploration of models that Music Commission thinks works?

- Mayor's Office partners with OFM, OED, OAC
- When looking at models, need to be aware that not all concepts can be transplanted due to our State Constitution that prohibits public investment in private enterprises

Joan: More people moving into areas that have nightlife, but then complain about noise and other issues. What can we do?

- Need to help people understand that some areas have nightlife historically and what expectations should be when moving to that area

Nicole: What do you like to tell other people about our city in regards to music?

- Need to tell story even better and increase branding
- People are surprised to hear many facts about Seattle
- Encourages Music Commission to work with Visit Seattle to highlight music

Wyking: What is your commitment to greater equitability of economic advantages of music?

- Have committed budget
- Working to make second Arts district in Central District
- Wants to tell history of area

Reese: Is there any discussion of fair wage protection for performing musicians?

- Have just set up the Office of Labor Standards to address these types of issues
- Putting enforcement measures in place
- Should invite director of office to learn about issues in music industry

Ricardo: Music Commission needs a budget/funds to continue expanding work.

Wyking: How can we help all-ages music scene?

- Looks to Music Commission for advice and guidance on issues

Alex: Is there a better way for Music Commission to communicate with Mayor's Office?

- Kate is a member of Cabinet and can directly communicate with Mayor and Policy shop
- Commissioners can invite Mayor to forums to learn more about issues

Karen: Any discussion to encourage developers to include performance space in developments?

- Yes, there is interest in encouraging; challenge is to balance competing priorities
- Will continue to also look at how to better utilize existing City-owned space

Jody: Music Commission is working to focus more on music business. What are thoughts of intersections of technology and content creation?

- Seattle is #8 in the world in startups; there is so much going on in the tech industry that we don't even have a good handle of how to tap into it all; continuing to learn more
- Experience in New York that "matchmaking" among creative industries and technology industries is difficult, may work better in Seattle
- There is a huge new population in Seattle that are not yet civically engaged, there is great potential

Alex: Creating a large basketball/hockey stadium with 20,000 seats would sky-rocket attraction of A-list talent that would have significant economic benefits. Do we have to wait for NBA?

- Really want a stadium in Seattle (not Tukwila, Tacoma, etc)
- Currently hockey alone will not pencil out for a large arena, need something else to make it work
- People of Seattle seem divided on whether public funds should be invested in an arena

In August Mayor was in Green Lake for lighting of lanterns for Hiroshima anniversary, saw man playing a Piano in the Park, talked with him and learned he was homeless. Sad, but so moving that Seattle has a park with a piano that he can play.

### **Meeting Adjourned 2:04PM**

### **Future Music Commission Regular Meetings:**

- **Wednesday, January 20, 2016**
- **Wednesday, April 20, 2016**
- **Wednesday, June 15, 2016**
- **Wednesday, September 21, 2016**
- **Wednesday, November 16, 2016**