



MINUTES

Joint Commission Meeting

Seattle Arts Commission & Seattle Music Commission

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 12:15 – 2:00 p.m.

Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commission Room L280

SAC Commissioners Present:

Sharon Williams (Chair), Juan Alonso-Rodríguez, Cassie Chin, Dawn Chirwa, Jonathan Cunningham, Steve Galatro, Ashraf Hasham, Quinton Morris, Sarah Wilke

SMC Commissioners Present:

Reese Tanimura (Chair), Sue Ennis, Jerry Everard, Joleen Hughes, Ben Hunter, Tim Lennon, Nate Omdal, Daniel Pak, Ben Secord, Nicole Jon Sievers

Staff Present:

Calandra Childers, Meli Darby, Randy Engstrom, Allie Lee, Rick Reyes, Alex Rose

Guests:

Edward Dumas (Vibrant Mag), Aline Moch (UW student), Vivian Phillips (Creative Economy consultant), Danny Schwartz (Showground), Dominique Stephens (Mayor's Office), David Toledo (Vibrant Mag)

Call to Order:

The first joint meeting of SAC and SMC was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Reese Tanimura

Public Comment:

- Vibrant Magazine (Edward Dumas, David Toledo): Promotion of new Seattle entertainment magazine. Bought out distribution route of City Arts and hopes Vibrant will help keep the local arts and entertainment scene active. Edward and David have ideas to do a big music award show, work readiness apprenticeships, unified outreach umbrella, etc. and would especially like to use the magazine to promote up and coming artists, as well as established artists. Encourages commissioners to spread the word and contact Vibrant if they have any projects, artists, or article ideas in mind. Hopes to partner with the City and County if opportunities arise. Email: vibrantart206@gmail.com



- [Showground](#) App (Danny Schwartz): Promotion of Seattle music events/artists search app. Currently 1500 local artists are on the platform, which is made easy for people to preview and curate. Wants to support the local music scene and help artists keep their independence

Honoring Nicole Jon Sievers

- Music commissioner Nicole Jon Sievers' term is coming to an end, and today is her last commission meeting. Nicole has served on the commission since 2014, spearheading the commission's work with Seafair and help showcasing young local artists and having an active role on the Youth and Community committee. Nicole is thankful to the commission for creating better life conditions for our city artists and is happy to have witnessed changes

SMC April Minutes

- Daniel Pak motioned to approve, Sue Ennis seconded, all approved (no oppose, no abstain)

SAC/SMC Introductions

- Commissioners go around the table and share their names, affiliations, and desired super powers

SAC/SMC Work Plan Overview

- Goal is to ground Creative Economy work in both commissions' work plans. We need to inform each other of our work in order to do so.
- SAC
 - Most recently worked on budget letter
 - Working with racial equity lens is a priority
 - Public Art Advisory Committee (Steve/Juan): Working on bringing greater racial equity to process, examining deaccession policy, and supporting public art bootcamp by helping with gaps in experiences. Would like to blow up whole realm of public art for city and be inclusive of communities – especially allowing communities to self-identify what they want to see reflected in public art
 - Facilities and Equitable Development (Cassie): Two big focuses are –
 - Continuing to steward Structure for Stability PDA and developing racial equity toolkit for PDA
 - Support BASE Program – launched last year for training and collaboration opportunities for individuals and organizations who want to develop cultural space
 - Cultural Investments Committee (Dawn): Comprised of Arts Commissioners, staff and community advocates to support and guide ARTS' racially equitable investment



strategies in Seattle's cultural sector that address structural racism in support of a fully thriving artistic and cultural community.

- SMC
 - Work process is intentional about racial equity and recognizing not all communities have access to racial equity tools. Earlier this year budget was used to provide racial equity training to music industry workers. Plans to continue the training to keep the conversation going and provide deeper understanding
 - City of Music vision was established about 10 years ago and currently in the process of reevaluating for 2020. Reflecting on what was achieved and what needs to be done better
 - Youth and Community Committee (Pak): Centers youth voice in work. Music Career Day and Seafair July 4th are big events that the committee drives, allowing youth to decide programming/curation, giving them as much access to resources as possible, and asking them to make sure a wide variety of genres and artists are represented. In partnership with local youth organizations, the committee hosts youth roundtables to hear youth voices and make sure they can advocate for themselves. All youth contributors are compensated.
 - Sharlese Metcalf has been spearheading work on safer spaces. There have been many public incidents that are affecting nightlife, and the music commission wants to make safety a priority by educating venues, etc.
 - Advocacy and Economic Development Committee (Tim): Working on the Experience City of Music project providing new opportunities for musicians to perform, working on cultural space in partnership with FED and engaged with the City policy side around music venues' affordability, working on professional development opportunities including festival workers and venue staff, and involved with policy work around special events and bridging technology and creativity.

Creative Economy Update

- Randy will circulate a Creative Economy one-sheet overview after meeting
- **Goal of work:** How can the city grow, support, and retain creatives while minimizing disparities and inequity within the creative economy?
- **Current status:** Extracted data from 20 reports, identified gaps (who we have talked to and not), identified 4 large themes and 4 Mixer events around those themes to engage the community (creativity and technology, creative gig economy, youth opportunity, space/affordability)
 - Our desired outcomes are recommendations for City interventions that support economic opportunity, affordability, and racial equity within the region's creative industries. (policy, jobs, resources)
 - Aiming for first set of recommendations/announcement to be made around Mayor's Arts Award at end of August



- Focus group engagement (“meeting with creatives”) is starting soon. We want creatives to be at the center of this process
 - Focus Group Toolkit draft: Provided handout detailing how we are going into focus groups, what we will ask people, facilitation, information to be gathered, and questions
 - Confirmed non-profits and art organizations to host focus groups (e.g., session with SAM equity task force, Amazon campus relationships)
 - Continuing to reach out
 - Planning one town hall-style report-out to the community in August or September at ARTS
- Ongoing targeted analysis on film industry and special events (sub-contracts)
- We are partnering with a new Office of Economic Development Director
- We are thinking about both short term (next 6-12 months) and long-term goals
 - With OED involvement, the private sector could be involved in the long-term process
 - Especially with space affordability and youth opportunities, we need to figure out how to make tangible impacts now and in the next 6-12 months
- We acknowledge the term “Creative Economy” is not all about transactional processes
- Our first Mixer in May was well-attended and engaging. The second Mixer on 6/26 is at Clock-Out Lounge in the Beacon Hill neighborhood; topic is “how to survive in the gig economy” and Naomi Ishisaka will be one of the panelists.
- Commissioners are encouraged to recommend who we should reach out to. We want to make sure the City is not missing people/communities to engage with in this process
- Roles: Internal Strategy Team (A small working group of ARTS and OFM staff and consultant support), Co-Chairs Team (Leadership from the Seattle Arts Commission, Music Commission, and Film Community), and Resource Advisory Group (A larger group of City Staff and key partners from several departments including ARTS, OFM, OED, CEN, MO, CBO, Council, Commissions, UW, and the Film Community)
- Please reach out to Randy for further questions, comments, and timeline info.
- **Questions/Comments:**
 - Can we effectively incorporate this into the Mayor’s Arts Award?
 - The August Mixer is a day before the Awards ceremony, so it would be challenging to synthesize community feedback in time. We could however tease out 2-3 highlights. There is likely to be a mix of announcements to be made on this work between the Mayor’s Arts Awards, mayor’s budget speech (Sept.), and the State of the City speech (Jan.). Strategy work will continue in the meantime, and we will have gradual outcomes.
 - Do we need a City Council engagement strategy?
 - We want to be thoughtful of geographies with this work. It might be good to have talking points and have council members aware of what we are doing.



Normalizing this work is important for the City. We could also host candidate forums – in the past we haven't had a thrust for creative advocacy. It would be good to have "what is your creative economy agenda" addressed.

- We should figure out areas where work can happen together and autonomously

Creative Economy Breakout Session

- Three breakout groups: Individual Artist Support, Youth Opportunity, Space/Affordability
- Commissioner self-selected breakout groups to join
- Goal: Brainstorm what the two commissions can do together in the next 6-8 months. Commissions have agency to decide specific action items.

Individual Artist Support Discussion (Leader: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez)

- "Working artists" – no simple, clear definition
- Not enough working artists on commissions – It is not as easy to leave your job as working artist to attend meetings – consider providing stipends
- An ideal would be to hire a PR company; "I need people to be aware of me, understand what I do"
 - Have a collective hire promotions person together
 - Partner with interns who can support PR
- Whether we like it or not, we live in a capitalistic society - we need money to work
- Reach mainstream media/audience to help people understand the arts and become aware of the talent that exists here
- Expand the term of what "working creative" means (e.g., include media professionals, venue owners, concert producers, promoters)
 - A lot of musicians are contractors - they contract gigs, get paid to play and hire others to play with them
- Educate people about the value of art, music, creative work – develop monetary/compensation standards
 - Talk about a working wage, how do you put monetary value on your work. If more information were available for people, would they make more realistic offers?
 - Cost of living is increasing to the point that people are leaving. We need a range of incomes
- There's a whole cadre of musicians who are doing very well through contract work - soundtracks, hip hop albums, country albums, etc.



- Talk to the people who are putting out the contracts. They have major power as gatekeepers
 - Ask how they find musicians
- Create a database that people can opt into
 - What content do people need in order to find out about you/your work? What's going to give them the information they need to make a decision?
 - 4culture touring artist roster
- Host workshops on social media
- Create a brand for the arts / branding Seattle as a cultural and artistic place
- Look over the UW executive summary (handout) and vet it with your networks

Youth Opportunity Discussion (Leaders: Ashraf Hasham, Daniel Pak)

- Change the topics of the following Mixers. Use the Youngstown location to talk about Affordability and Space instead of Youth Opportunities. Help the young people design and discuss their own event to learn about their needs
- Maybe we can use King Street Station for a Town Hall including what we heard from the young people
- Let's utilize the youth roundtables to identify what the youth need. What about a Youth Advisory Committee (16-17 years old)?
- Plan youth convening at the end of July (3 weeks before the Town Hall)
- What about collaborating with the Seattle Youth Commission? Who is part of this commission and leading? What agency do they have?
- Let's involve Lara and Tina from ARTS into the planning of this event and into these conversations
 - This should be a youth-led event. Let's also ask and involve them
- Maybe Vera or Youngstown can host a "Youth Art and Music Summit"
 - Could this be part of City of Music Career Day? It could be an evening event and we provide dinner for youth
- Additional topics of interest and questions regarding youth opportunity:
 - Paid Internship Program (maybe Seattle Youth Employment fund)
 - More empowerment, less "disciplinary" type programs
 - Learn and collaborate with the Youth Commission and DON

Space/Affordability Discussion (Leader: Cassie Chin)



- BASE (Build Art Space Equitably) 1 and 2 cohorts will come together around this topic to discuss recruitment for BASE 3 and 4 and what the curriculum will look like
- What timeline can we give to people on the PDA and how can people work with the City on this process?
- What is the goal of this creative economy community work? Info gathering, info providing, or outlooks for advocacy?
 - Maybe a call for action to people OR to ask people for input on big issues of concern
 - For PDA, tangible projects should be identified (e.g., activation of 2nd floor of King Street Station), or all programs should be considered for prioritization
 - Randy will soon have more insight on where we will be in terms of the PDA in August
 - An opportunity for artists to do self-advocacy around affordability. For example, musicians experiencing dislocation want to discuss downtown tolling. It would be great to get officials to hear out issues as construction is about to happen in various locations.
 - Informing City Council of our work so it gives weight to potential council members and it's not new news to them along the way
 - What about a joint commission candidate forum; do an open presentation on cultural PDA and explain what exactly the PDA is and its potential. We should be the ambassadors
 - But, we want to equip people to go and do something and act on it through their communities rather than rely on candidates
 - Balancing advocacy and leverage
 - The Mixer engagement and possible joint candidate forum are separate conversations. Both give power to artists.
- How should the two commissions work together on Space/Affordability beyond August?
 - Both need to think about how to eliminate barriers to affordability, getting jobs, and access to the city. What can we advise?
 - What are the bigger platforms we can bring forward?
 - Both need to be using same language and identify an action plan

Misc. Announcements

- August Joint Commission and ARTS/OFM staff summer celebration at Randy's house – Invitation coming soon
 - This will take place of the regular August SAC commission meeting on 8/13 (T)



- Next Joint Meeting – Co-chairs of commissions will convene to decide on a possible meeting in September
- “The Color of Money: An Evening with Mehrsa Baradaran” event @ Washington Hall 6-8pm today
- Juneteenth Celebration @ Langston 4-6pm today

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm