

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Zoom Conference

Commissioners Present: Reese Tanimura (Chair), Jennifer Czeisler (Vice Chair), Tim Lennon, Daniel Pak, Ben Secord, Ben Hunter, Sue Ennis, Terry Morgan, Kitty Wu, Paula Madrigal, Nate Omdal, Sharlese Metcalf, Jerry Everard

Commissioners Absent: Joleen Hughes

City Staff Present: Alex Rose, Scott Plusquellec, Meli Darby, Ashraf Hasham, Randy Engstrom, Meghan Sebold, Dominique Stephens, Bobby Lee

Guests: Eric Lilavois (commissioner candidate, musician, producer, owner London Bridge studios, VP of local recording academy chapter), Michaud Savage (musician, SIASE), Jason Clackley (VERA), Steven Severin (co-owner Neumos, founder of WANMA, NIVA member), Simon Okelo (founder and ED of One Vibe Africa, musician, from tribe called Luo), Xtian Gunther (musician, composer), Khalia Carter (Creative & Cultural Workforce Development program mgr, NW Folklife)

Call to Order: The was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Reese Tanimura.

Public Comment: N/A

Welcome – Reese Tanimura

We open with an acknowledgement that we're on indigenous land. We must work in a manner that honors the heritage and history of the original peoples of Seattle.

Regular Commission Business – All

- Review Agenda
- Approval of June 17, 2020 SMC Meeting Minutes:
 - Sue motioned to approve, Tim seconded the motion, all approved (no oppose, no abstain)

ARTS & OFM Updates

ARTS Update - Randy

- Randy and Calandra received a really powerful letter from ARTS' Black staff, telling us to do better
- Centering BIPOC in economic recovery
 - Creative Hope Initiative – a pilot towards a WPA or CETA work program, meet immediate community needs
 - Creative Advantage – education/schools are shifting how they engage students
 - Overall commitment to Inclusive Creative Economy - where OFM, ARTS, and OED all come together to support building a stronger city on the other side of this crisis
 - How we build community wealth, climate justice, digital equity and access, center workers and creativity in preparing for next economy
- Unbelievable changes happening quickly: in one week City Council approved a progressive income tax and committed to defunding of SPD by 50%.
- Personally thanks Tim and Jen for their leadership and partnership as this is their final full Commission meeting before ending their commitments on Aug 31. Randy cautiously optimistic about our shared future.

OED Updates – Bobby

- None of us has a crystal ball – economic projections unclear about how deep the economic recession will go
- The political reality of the City budget is like nothing I've ever seen in all the cities I've worked with
- Payroll tax ([JumpStart Seattle](#)) could go to the ballot or be challenged in court (timing of the tax is also up in the air)
- Thanks the staff on this call
- Creative industry projected to grow – we can't just rely on legacy industry clusters, have to start looking at the future

Mayor Durkan and Chief Best's proposed reductions to SPD budget – Randy

- Elimination or reduction of overtime - major impact
 - But we've been asking for a long time re: alternatives to uniformed officers staffing festivals and special events
 - Implications for film permits
- Details in mayor's [press release from 7/13](#). Two sections of note:
 - “As SPD further analyzes overtime and reimbursable staffing for special events and sporting events (i.e. Homeland Security), SPD will reduce special events overtime by at least 30,000 hours, which will result in at least \$2.7 million in savings.”
 - SPD is analyzing and evaluating “Current overtime practices, including necessary staffing throughout the year required to maintain public safety and the presence of SPD at reimbursable special events and sporting events”
- Reese: Seattle Arts Commission is preparing a letter that responds to the City budget. Also chatted with others at Seattle Center, what plans for safety and citywide gatherings might look like, what police engagement might look like.

CHAT From Michaud Savage (any pronouns) to Everyone: 12:32 PM

re SPD: Decriminalize Seattle is doing a lot of organizing in regards to reimagining keeping our communities healthy and safe, and I think it would behoove all of us to make sure to be in conversation with them as new concerns and needs emerge in response to the changes.

Additional updates relayed from Chris

- No updates on Inclusive Creative Industries Director hiring process. Film Task Force has submitted proposal to OFM to establish a Film Commission; it's pending Budget Office and Mayor's Office review later this summer before submitting to City Council. Film Task Force is finalizing mid-year update letter regarding its priorities, and working with Meghan and Taylor (OFM) to update work plan.

Committee & Work Group Updates

Executive Committee (Reese)

- Prioritize getting seats filled, back up to 21 members. Some commissioners submitted their recommendations to fill in gaps of representation (different parts of the sector, different backgrounds and lived experiences)
- Please send additional nominees

Youth + Community Committee (Pak)

- Shout out to Ashraf for the generative conversations. When COVID hit, got together to look at how youth serving orgs were adjusting, digital equity became a clear need to address
 - Totem Star talking about remote recording set ups, usb microphones
 - Inspired by successful Creative Advantage gathering (shoutout to Ashraf, Tina LaPadula, SAM's Regan Pro), now talking about how to do another event centering youth voice

Internship Program

- Guest: Khalia Carter. NW Folklife is the home base for the cultural and creative workforce dev program, Khalia is the program mgr. Aim of the program is to connect creative young folks to paid internships and mentorship from active cultural workers, creatives, artists in the field. More details: <https://www.nwfolklife.org/ccwdinternships/>
- Khalia: internships last between 12-24 weeks, two tracks: 1) supported network internship - works with TeenTix first to learn foundational skills, then placed at two other orgs. 2) other internships 3-6 mo, depends on what host supervisor wants. Weekly questionnaires to make sure they're developing skills. Paid internships – helpful esp. now when funds are tight for everyone. 11 interns so far (4 earlier this year in NWFL and ARTS; interns now working with Jack Straw, Teen Tix, Wa Na Wari, BOC Music). Looking for guest speakers to talk with the intern cohort - create inspirational capital. Volunteers:

- Eric L
- Paula
- Sue
- Pak
- Terry
- Michaud
- Ben H
- VERA is helping to onboard supervisors, two-part training to learn how to work with youth, be culturally competent, make sure they have support system. Sharing scholarly articles, discussing what it's like to be a supervisor for youth, supervisors reflecting on their early career experiences, challenge assumptions (especially relevant to how supervisors vs. younger people use technology, social media, email).
- Reese: also if there's an **interest in being a site host in the future, reach out to Khalia**

Digital equity letter

- Guest: Jason Clackley, Artistic Director, The Vera Project
- Thanks to all involved in digital equity letter!
- 3 facets of digital equity: 1) Affordable and sufficient home internet; 2) Having appropriate devices; and 3) Support for digital skills with technical and digital navigation support, including accessible apps and online services.
- Shout outs to David Keyes (Seattle IT), Sabrina Roach (National Digital Inclusion Alliance)
- Public private partnership - need telecoms and larger tech companies to step up, get devices and services to people who need it, solutions that will last
 - Get devices, internet access to youth (students in SPS, houseless)
- Been talking about this for years, but the need has never been more apparent
- Michaud: **address this to Gov Inslee**
- Kitty: also CM Pedersen's [Internet for All resolution](#) - going to council on July 20, **opportunity for public comment**
 - Sent [CTAB mtg notes](#) last night
 - Meghan: when CM Pederson spoke last night he mentioned the need for public private partnerships
- Landscape is changing every day, need to get it out the door (part of the reason it's taken us so long, because new info coming all the time)
- **Want to get commissioners' consent to be signatories, option to have your orgs sign on as well**
- We know that beyond just young people, artists will be making their living online for the next year
- Secord: **how do orgs sign on to the letter? Is there a coordinated communications strategy?** (Amir or Ben join Friday meeting - makes sense to have The Residency sign on)
- Alex send [updated letter](#)

A+ED (Tim)

- Some members continuing to participate in Seattle Arts Commission's Facilities & Equitable Development (FED) meetings – they're pushing forward the PDA, Cultural Space Agency. Could have a big impact for orgs and small businesses to stay in town.
- Last meeting 2 weeks ago:
 - Looking at vacancies we have, need to fill open seats - one priority is to get **folks who represent individual working artists**. We have had and still have some amazing individual artists, but want to center this more.

- Tough time to get more commissioners seated, City Council and Mayor have lots of work to do now
- Met with some counterparts in Austin, several venues had started doing small openings, many if not all venues had been looking at possibility of going out of businesses by end of the year. Austin Music Commission has allies on its City Council who see music as industry heavyweight (one of Austin's biggest moneymakers), lobbying for music industry
- Guest: Steven Severin, co-owner Neumos, founder of WANMA, NIVA member. WANMA - 110 venue owners, GMs, others who work in clubs; mission is to save all music venues. Been doing lobbying both locally and federally. Looking at raising money.
 - Got a small grant from King County (\$750k live music venue fund, part of [KC emergency funding](#)), 51 venues in the county that qualify as live music venues.
 - **Biggest point to drive home is the ecosystem of the music industry** - we're all connected. We all rely on each other. Without artists, there's no venues, without venues no publicist, record labels, recording studios.
 - NIVA - 2k music venues and promoters across the country, worked really hard on PPP to change how these funds can be applied (beyond payroll --> rent)
 - Main thing we're working on now is the [RESTART Act](#) (talked with two senators, one on the right and one on the left)
 - 1.1M letters and phone calls to congress in 48 hours
 - Huge difference
 - WA is #19 state in terms of # of messages
 - Neumos + Barboza employs about 50 ppl, but paid 10,000 artists - and we're just one spot
 - Lost almost 100 music venues across the country already
 - This is our last hurrah
 - Really simple form, takes 30 sec to fill out
 - **Alex send WANMA call to action**
 - Tech companies are all battling for the same talent across the country, they use our music scene to help attract people here
 - **Keep Music Live - fundraising campaign**, going to MS, Tableau - going live next week
 - What is WANMA doing for artist outreach?
 - We've learned about our equity issues - when I started, there were almost no women. On the NIVA calls now, about 50% women in powerful positions. But re POC: "20-25% of my staff are people of color", "what positions are they in?" almost everyone said "security". Been working to change, address this - **put more POC in positions of power. Grants that WANMA will distribute will take this into account.**
 - Paula: When I came to Seattle, I went out and only saw Latinos cooking, didn't see Latinos on the stage.
 - Steven: As someone who has spent my whole life following and really admiring Black culture, I haven't done as good of a job in helping POC succeed. Been a concert promoter for 20+ years, did mostly hip hop shows.
 - Paula: Kids don't see themselves in a position of power, or as artists.
 - Steven: Working on doing better. I'm open to listening, hearing ideas about what we can do differently.

- Nate: I read through the WANMA recommendations on reopening - eg cashless/e-ticket. Appreciate the move from what is cash-based nightlife economy, can we make that more permanent? Starting to establish a prevailing wage? **Talk more about this in next A+ED committee!**

Honoring Tim and Jen!

- Tim instrumental in leading the Inclusive Creative Economy Road Map work last year
- Jen agreed to stay on another year to lend her business expertise. Licensing, streaming, music modernization.
- Jen 4 years, Tim 5.5 years
 - Jen: been so honored to be part of SMC
 - Tim: this has been huge. Like Steven said, when we're leaving people out, we need to address it. **When the whole system is at risk of collapse, let's not bring it back the way it was but build it back better.**

Leadership transitions

- Vice Chair - Sharlese nominated
 - Kitty motions to vote, Sue seconds, Jen thirds
 - Yay: all remaining SMC members Jerry, Paula, Sue, Pak, Jen, Nate, Terry, Secord, Kitty
 - **Sharlese is now Vice Chair-elect!** Will officially become Vice Chair on Sept 1.
- **A+ED need chair or co-chairs**

Priorities:

1. Fill vacancies. CM Tammy Morales is now the chair of the Council committee ARTS and OFM engage with.
 2. Advocate for PDA. Continuing work in conjunction with SAC - we've done retreats, joint meetings, Y+C, cultural space and facilities work in collaboration.
 3. Advocate for gig worker legislation / unemployment
CHAT from Paula: In another topic, A lot of professional musicians going to have problems with the unemployment now with the covid. This can affect their legal status and have problems with immigration.
 4. Workforce dev for youth and adults
 5. Build bridges - better use interrelations between film, tech, and music
 1. Meghan: there's a lot to this one. In making these cross-sector connections, we're thinking about pipelines for diverse and local hiring and sourcing talent.
 2. Hoping Joleen can be point on this - **Alex will follow up**
- Other things on the list - ongoing work, highly integrated with City's work + work that doesn't need to be prioritized just yet
 - Want to **vote to finalize these priorities** - **will follow up by email**
 - Kitty: 1-5 all make sense, I don't see anything problematic
 - Michaud: 3 and 4 should supersede 2. Individual artists have harder time accessing resources than cultural organizations.

- Reorder: 3, 4, 2, 5, 1
- Pak: use these priorities and areas of focus to help us recruit additional members (update language of #1)
- Back to the youth roundtable at WA Hall, youth want a place to live and do their work in the city
- Nate: as a group would we want to support advancing the **admissions tax conversation now, or wait?**
 - Michaud: That tax hasn't been paid by and large
 - Reese: **Need to track how this is applied in virtual events**
 - Sue: Background on why men's sports are exempt? Alex: the legislation is tied to the stadium district
 - Nate: Admissions Tax legislation is probably not the only piece of **legislation that's got to be revisited in the digital world we're in now**

Circling back to hear from Xtian ("X"), whose audio is now working

- X came through Sue, make music, worked in the industry on both coasts. COVID has laid bare what a lot of us have known for a long time.
- Don't feel like there are any *true* allies in City Council
- In my 13 years here, watched Seattle's legacy (not just Boeing but arts and culture), sliding into a place of nonimportance
- This is the time, when everything's topsy turvy, to have a Works Progress Administration, and other solutions - have to be aggressive

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm.