

MINUTES
Seattle Music Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12-1:30 p.m.
MS Teams Conference

- Commissioners Present:** Kitty Wu, Jovino Santos Neto, Sue Ennis, Jason Clackley, Denise Burnside, Jessica Toon, Eric Lilavois, Casey Carter, Daniel Pak, Bunnie Moore, Anne O’Dowd, Nick Vaerewyck, Adra Boo, Keola Kama, Shannon Welles, Paula Madrigal, Andrew Joslyn Terry Morgan, Jolene Hughes
- Commissioners Absent:** Nate Omdal
- City Staff Present:** Alex Rose, Shaprece Richardson, Scott Plusquellec
- Guests Present :** Reese Tanimura, Jon Stone (Gigs4u)
- Public comment :** Public comments (2 minute limit per comment)
NA
- Call to order:** The meeting was called to order with welcome and land acknowledgement at 12:09 p.m. by Kitty Wu.

Music’s in our Blood announcement – crisis in blood supply

Daniel Pak announces that [Bloodworks NW](#) is in need of blood donations and that the blood supply in the PNW is very low, especially since the pandemic. They have lost 35% of their donors and we are currently down to a 1-day blood supply. BNW reached out to the SMC through Totem star and asked Pak to connect him with the music community. In discussion, it was brought to our attention that the federal government has discriminated against gay men by not allowing them to donate blood. Pak has made the pledge to talk to Bloodworks NW about this discriminatory practice.

- Group acknowledged that federal government discriminates against gay men – discrimination stemmed from HIV/AIDS hysteria from the 80s
- Noted that it takes 1,000 blood donors a day to supply our NW blood banks
- Paula suggests that artists start promoting voter registration, vaccination, and donating blood at concerts.
- Kitty suggests offering quick reminders and resources to help support these messages and offers to help anyone who needs to register for voting.

Connecting & Celebrating: 1-on-1 check ins in breakout rooms

Regular commission business: approval of 9/15 minutes

Jason motioned to approve; Sue seconded – unanimous approval

Updating SMC bylaws

- 2013 was the last amendments to the bylaws
- last January Executive Committee began flagging updates to make
mainly 4.18 re standing vs issues committees and at-large/non-Commissioner members
- pronouns need to be updated (i.e., Mayor referred to as “him”)
- old dates, meeting location, term limits need to be updated

It is brought to the group’s attention that **5.1** that says we won’t meet in March and December. Kitty suggests revisiting those breaks and notes that it may be beneficial to take a break. No clear indication from group on wanting to, or not wanting to take a break.

It is suggested by Reese that we may want to revisit the language that talks about committee meetings being closed to Commissioners, except by designation of the chair. Bylaws should state how we engage with other community and stakeholders transparently.

At-large members for subcommittees

- how many is “full”; 12-24 members?
- how to honor at-large members
- standing committees supposed to only be made up of Commissioners, but present a great opportunity to engage more community members
Caveat that Commissioners should be the only voting members
- Need for greater checks and balances –as it’s written, the Chair has all the power
- It’s noted that the Recording Academy uses “advisors” as an option to bring in others, a good way to cultivate future commissioners
- The group would like to frame up the bylaws in the way we want to be perceived – operating with transparency, not exclusivity

Task force to engage with elected officials:

With it being budget and election season, there is a lot of advocacies happening – now is the time to take collective action.

- advocate for how to keep creative sector jobs strong
- advocacy letters, statewide efforts (e.g., Amy Lillard/Whipsmart)

City budget:

- Moved to end of agenda and held as an Executive Session

Government updates:

a. Shop to the Beat (Scott/Shaprece)

- City has received funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)
- One application of those funds is via Shop to the Beat – performance opportunities for musicians in small retail spaces.
- OED has partnered with [Gigs4U](#) to recruit and match businesses and musicians who are interested in being a part of this program
- Program to start on Shop Small Saturday (Nov.27th)
- Both [Scott](#) and [Shaprece](#) are available for questions/feedback

Jon Stone is invited to give background on personal and Gigs4U work and to reflect on working with musicians during the pandemic

- Jon was one of the first music commissioners when the SMC was incorporated in 2010
- Former chair of Y+C Committee
- Formerly led Bumbershoot as Production Manager and Production Director
- Gigs4U started as a spinoff of the Sea-Tac Airport live music program that SMC launched

Gigs aims to create meaningful opportunities for musicians and technical staff, usually in nontraditional spaces

- o Municipal, public, corporate spaces (Amazon, downtown office buildings)
- o Live music program at Sea-Tac is flagship
- o Usually in the daytime
- Gigs4u acts as brokers, not talent agency
- 1200 local artists booked (pre-pandemic ~300 artists per month)
- Pre-pandemic 3500 gigs annually – in 2019 expanded to SF, but that’s on ice because of COVID
- Once the pandemic hit:
 - o Gigs spent most of the time preparing for reopening
 - o Partnered with performing Arts Center Eastside (Bellevue, Redmond, Renton, Woodinville, Factoria)
- Gigs contracted 120 performances; program was successful and has just gone into its 5th extension
 - o Summer 2021 saw about 1/3 of usual activity
 - o Airport program still suspended
- Primary partners = Downtown Seattle Assn, Amazon, FoW, Alliance for Pioneer Sq, Ballard Alliance
- What gigs is hearing from musicians:
 - o They feel abandoned, forgotten, devalued, dismissed
 - o Jan 2021 lots of stories of musicians still fighting with the state just to get an unemployment check
(Lots of people were taken care of retroactively)
 - o Many have had to change careers (especially those who relied primarily on gigging), or moved to other states
 - o Others who were more diversified leaned on their teaching
- When ready for reopening
 - o 1/3 of musicians hesitant because of public health situation

- 1/3 of musicians felt out of practice (even though many are solo or duo acts, they're often part of larger ensembles)
- 1/3 of musicians were performance ready
- ^this ratio is still holding true
- OFM's partnership with [WFEA](#) helpful to centralize info
- Safety concerns: musicians also declining to work on the streets out of fear; always sending folks out in pairs
- Recommends: Help musician community understand the business and need to diversify sources of income
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otrTigCEkus>
- Shaprece spoke about leading STTB equitably and let the group know that she will be reaching out for musician recommendations and to have a conversation about long term goals outside of SMC work.

b. Year-end Mixer (Alex)

-Tabled

Committee updates:

a. Advocacy + Economic Development

b. Youth + Community

c. Executive

-- Tabled due to time constraints

2022 SMC workplan:

- Alex noted that November SMC meeting is dedicated to developing the next year's work plan; this work will begin at upcoming committee meetings

Adjourn (1:30)