



SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
King Street Station, 3rd Floor Exhibit

Commissioners present: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Dawn Chirwa, Priya Frank, Steve Galatro, Terri Hiroshima (Co-Chair), Vivian Phillips (Co-Chair), Tracy Rector, S. Surface (phone), Sharon Williams

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Amber Rose Jimenez, and Elisheba Johnson of the Office of Arts & Culture

Guests: Artist Inye Wokoma

Excused Absences: Jonathan Cunningham, Jescelle Major

Call to Order

Vivian Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., with an acknowledgement that we are meeting on indigenous land, that of the Coastal Salish people. Phillips also stated that the SAC centers all its work within a racial equity lens.

Approval of the June Minutes

Tracy Rector moved to approve the July Arts Commission meeting minutes. Sharon Williams seconded the motion. All present approved.

BorderLands Artist Presentation: Inye Wokoma

Elisheba Johnson introduced the artist Inye Wokoma, whose work is featured in the King Street Station exhibit, *BorderLands*, which centered on themes of belonging, resistance, nationalism, and resilience. The SAC invited Wokoma to introduce his artwork *Allegiance Reset*. Wokoma reflected on the power of ritual and his deep interest in the process and journey of creating art, more than the actual artifact created; he shared his methodology for approaching the subjects of national allegiance, national origin, U.S. culture, and the possibility of creating a new agreement for residents to share.

Inye Wokoma completed a degree in journalism and filmmaking from Clark Atlanta University before establishing Ijo Arts Media Group in Seattle. His work for corporate and non-profit clients has appeared in USA Today, ColorsNW, Washington Law and Politics, and Chicago Wilderness, among others. Wokoma received a Telly Award in 2012, and he has been honored at the Colorado Environmental Film Festival, the Society of Professional Journalists Western Washington Chapter, and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. For over two decades, Wokoma has created and exhibited visual art that engages the diverse communities in which he lives and works.



Public Art Advisory Committee

Jeff Benesi described the recent discussions during the PAAC regarding community engagement, safety, design, and selection. The annual Municipal Art Plan (The MAP), which details the process for utilizing Percent for Art funds and encapsulates the priorities of ARTS, PAAC, and the various partner departments for public art projects across Seattle, will be developed and shared with the PAAC for review, before it advances to the SAC for approval. Public Art Director Ruri Yampolsky will visit SAC to present the MAP before it is submitted to the City for review.

Community Development and Outreach Committee

Priya Frank shared her reflections from observing the CityArtist selection panel, which Irene Gomez of ARTS convened; the Arts Commission will vote on the recommendations from the panel for the 2018 CityArtist program during the October meeting.

Commissioners reflected upon the recently held 2017 Mayor's Arts Awards (MAA), and noted that the CDO will convene a task force to develop recommendations for the SAC to consider for future event and program planning. Overall, members shared thanks for ARTS staff in producing the event, the racial diversity of finalists and attendees in reflecting the community, the accessibility of the event to the public as well as the refreshments and setting, and the energy and spirit of the event overall.

The process for this year's MAA included a panel featuring members of the Arts Commission and the Community Development and Outreach Committee, who reviewed nominations and selected finalists; those finalists for each category were shared with the Mayor's office for the final decision.

Directors Report

Randy Engstrom shared reflections from the recently released Creation, Activation and Preservation of Cultural Space Report (CAP Report) and thanked the Facilities and Economic Development Committee for their work stewarding the work onward. Randy also shared details for the upcoming Mayoral Budget Speech on September 25 and Commissioners were invited to attend. Relevantly, Randy shared that the Cultural Facilities Fund is undergoing a Racial Equity Toolkit process to address racially just outcomes, and the ARTS departments movement to build racial equity into all of its work. Finally, Mayor Ed Murray resigned, and the acting Mayor is Bruce Harrell.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.