

SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, July 9th, 2019
Panel Room, King Street Station

Commissioners present: Priya Frank (Chair), Juan Alonso Rodriguez, Cassie Chinn, Dawn Chirwa (phone), Steve Galatro, Ashraf Hasham, Jescelle Major, Quinton Morris (phone), Chieko Phillips

Staff in attendance: Calandra Childers, Randy Engstrom, Irene Gomez, Allie Lee, Ruri Yampolsky

Guests: Kimberly Corinne Deriana (Artist & Designer, with Jones & Jones)

Call to Order & Introduction (4:10)

Approval of Minutes:

Steve moved to approve the minutes from May and June 2019. Juan seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

- Derrick Belgarde (Chief Seattle Club): Derrick requests for the deaccession of the *Fortson Square* artwork in order to move forward Chief Seattle Club's plans to create Indigenous space. Derrick would like to bring the space back to its natural land, incorporate Indigenous species, and provide healing to the Indigenous community and Seattle people.
- Elizabeth Conner (*Fortson Square* artist): Elizabeth gave an introduction on the *Fortson Square* artwork. The 20-year-old artwork was a multi-year collaborative project that followed the ethics of making space open for everyone and making small interstitial spaces feel welcoming. Elizabeth is excited for the Chief Seattle Club's project and commitment, thinks positively about it, and thanks the Public Art Advisory committee for preserving the fragments. The artwork is related to the Pioneer Square neighborhood and should ideally be relocated within. Time is tight for the relocation to happen before the construction and ideas are being gathered around how/where to do this. Elizabeth encourages the group to contact her with ideas.
- Heather Hargesheimer (Jones & Jones): Heather is the architect for the Chief Seattle Club expansion project and provided the group with a package detailing the history of the "Little Crossing Over Place" and preliminary diagrams for the use of the space. Heather is currently in the process of engaging partners and identifying what the neighborhood needs.

PAAC Update: Fortson Square

Briefing: Juan Alonso Rodriguez

Juan recapped the deaccession discussion at the June PAAC meeting, which concluded with recommending the deaccession of the artwork at Fortson Square. The discussion included the following comments:

- PAAC is supportive of creating Indigenous space and serving the Indigenous population
- PAAC is disappointed that the artwork can't be recontextualized in the space

- PAAC encouraged recontextualization
- PAAC strongly encouraged the two parties to work together, but due to the inability to work together, concluded the best action to take is to compensate the artist and return the artwork
- PAAC does not want the artwork to be destroyed

SAC Questions / Comments

- This case was tricky in that the SAC must follow the existing deaccession policy. There is a clause about the changing nature of a site and re-considering artwork at the site, which triggered the PAAC to assess the work in the first place. If the site change didn't happen, the SAC may have defended the artist.
- Compensating the artist is highly recommended.
- Perhaps the Chief Seattle Club can assist with the fragments getting safely moved.
- What does the process look like going forward?
 - PAAC will work with the artist and Chief Seattle Club to figure out the removal process of the artwork and negotiate compensation for the artist.
 - The artwork is a public good, so it cannot be kept privately or sold. It is a community piece that would make most sense if relocated within the Pioneer Square region. It will be tricky to repurpose the piece.

Chieko moved to approve the deaccession of the artwork at Fortson Square. Cassie seconded. Approved. (We could not hear a response from Quinton over the phone)

Brings the Medicine Sundial at King Street Station Plaza

Briefing: Kimberly Corinne Deriana

- A public temporary sculpture part of yəhaw show
- An effort to activate the King Street Station plaza
- The gravel on the plaza reminded Kimberly of growing up in Montana and Indigenous earth lodge villages. She wanted to bring that sense of Indigenous structure to the plaza and was also inspired by the King Street Station clock tower and the idea of marking time. The two tripod structures were inspired by Coast Salish fishing lears (traps to catch fish).
- Feels honored to be part of the effort to decolonize space and feels the art work embodies a "place keeping" spirit.

Civic Poet Update

Briefing: Irene Gomez

Irene gave an overview of the panel review & recommendations for the 2020-21 Civic Poet. A summary report was provided. Highlights include:

- We are partnering with the City of Literature on the process
- The Civic Poet will serve a term of two years and will receive a \$10,000 stipend distributed over the two-year period
- 4 panelists participated in reviewing/scoring applications and interviewing/scoring candidates. Sharon Williams of SAC participated as an observer and non-voting member for full panel

- 19 applications were received and 3 were ineligible. Program Panel recommends **Jourdan Keith** as the next Civic Poet from an impressive pool of applicants. According to panel commentary, *Ms. Keith is the definition of an engaged generative artist with a demonstrated commitment to Seattle. Artist is intersectional in their approach, brings together a range of ideas and work, and appreciate the way artist engages difficult conversations, both thoughtfully and warmly.*

SAC Questions / Comments

- For the next Civic Poet, it might be a good idea to have a review of the entire program and eligibility criteria. Perhaps we should reconsider the publishing experience criteria. The original committee had this as a priority item, but is this still valid? The landscape of publishing is changing.
- There was a list of literary collectives (artists of color) that this call went out to. Next time it should also go out to Poetry on Buses
- We are requiring the artist to create, promote, and participate in a lot of activities (Mayors Arts Award, CRUEDA, poetry month, relations with library, etc). Is the compensation enough?
- We should consider pairing up the youth poet laureate with the civic poet – this is currently in the talks.
- It would be good to know what success looks like for this position, which would help the SAC decide on the panel recommendations

Steve moved to approve Jourdan Keith as the 2020-21 Civic Poet. Chieko seconded. Approved.

FED Update: BASE Cohort 2

Briefing: Cassie Chin

- BASE 2 met this month. 23 individuals (non-profits, business owners, financial lenders, etc) came together. We have a smaller cohort because people wanted that, and individuals gathered in smaller focus areas:
 - Hacking the economy (community ownership, workshare)
 - Arts and healing centers
 - Multicultural kitchens (shared kitchen space, intergenerational engagement)
 - Thriving in place and stabilization
 - Risk-taking and innovation (how do we compensate risk-taking, creating bad art)
- BASE 2 is starting up again in September. The September topic will be on ‘storytelling,’ inspired by Gus Newport, and the October topic will be on ‘rough budget and timeline.’
 - Let Cassie know if you have any ideas for presenters and panelists (centering storytelling and budget). We will bring full curriculum to FED for feedback for rest of the year
- The next Creative Economy Mixer topic is Space Affordability for Creatives. 7/31 (W) 5-7pm at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center. Please join and promote!

CIC Update: Funding Programs

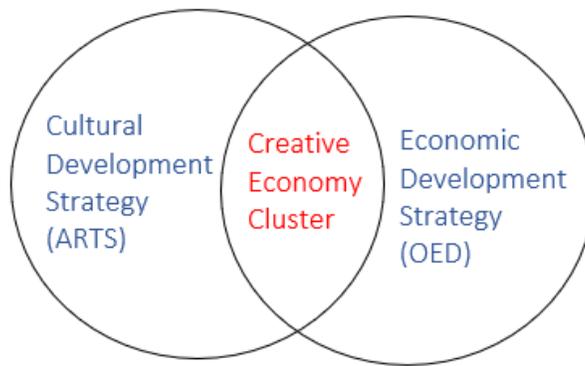
Briefing: Calandra Childers

- CIC has 2 new members - Ana Maria Lampoy and Karen Toering. An invitation has also gone out to Louis Gong. This will be an opportunity for changes in the future

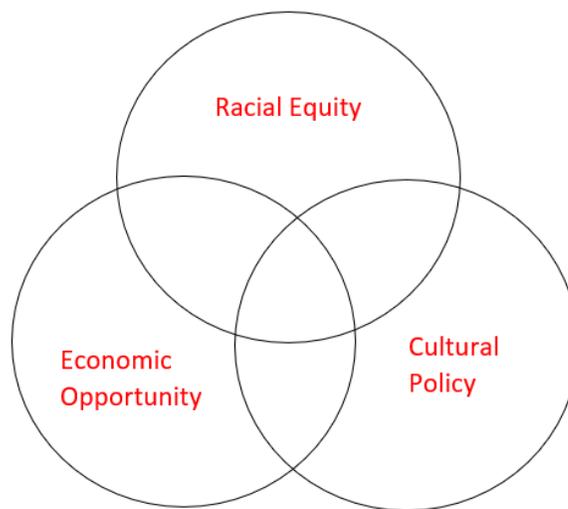
- Trying to figure out how to bring in cultural partnerships team to larger group and what makes the most sense. Email voting as not been great because SAC doesn't get to ask questions

Director's Report

- SAC not meeting in August – There will be a joint SAC, SMC, ARTS, OFM party at Randy's place on 8/13 (T).
- Creative Economy Update:
 - OED Director Bobby Lee is interested in a Creative Economy Cluster messaging framework that brings the visions of both ARTS and OED together and engages community on the future of our work – An "Inclusive Creative Economy Cluster"



- The work of ARTS – Cultural Development – what can the government do to support the arts and culture community? We don't have enough resources, so how can we be vocationally intentional? A lot of our current work deals with these interventions.



- Why creative economy: The future of work will be dependent on creative skills; we will be going from a service & knowledge economy to a network economy. We want kids who live here now to benefit in 10 years, so Seattle needs to start preparing now.
- Vivian Phillips is kicking off focus groups this week, Andy Fife is working on special events outreach, and the film industry outreach is done and we are getting data back. This will all inform the Inclusive Creative Economy Cluster work, from which we will extract our priorities (internships for youth, job board with Washington Filmworks, PDA, etc.). We will announce some of the priorities now and commit to a longer process.
- We are still in deep info gathering mode. Mixers have been successful, and nothing has gone off topic for the most part. We are proposing another joint SAC/SMC commission meeting in September where contractors could perhaps share back data
- The August Mixer topic will be on racial equity and inclusion in the creative field. Priya, Jonathan, and Reese (SMC) will lead the panel discussion and the event will take place at NAAM
 - An opportunity to think about a RET for cultural advocacy with both SAC and SMC. What does advocacy look like and how does this inform policies?

SAC Questions / Comments

- How is OED addressing racial equity and how are we doing with engagement?
 - Racial equity is a priority for Bobby Lee. Mixer panels are diverse (second was more diverse than first), focus groups are explicating people of color, and the UW study went hard on the racial equity focus of our work. Film focus groups were less diverse (film unions are not diverse).
- We are in a critical time period with council changeover and there are a lot of voices that might not center racial equity. Now is the time to make it heard/emphasized. The education process for council is complicated.
- Understands OED perspective of Arts and Culture, but we should make sure that Arts & Culture doesn't lose its own identity in this process and shouldn't lose sight of all other impacts. It's not just about economics when we talk about A&C.
 - At the heart of it we are engaging community
 - SPS impact could be big with Creative Economy work
 - Idea is to interrupt the system and reprioritize
- Let's think about the term Racial Equity – just because something is driven by a POC panel doesn't make it equitable. Alienation can occur when something is just focused on race. Let's think more about Identity Equity; what does it look like to feed other areas of equity?
- Staff departures: Elisheba Johnson, Lara Davis, and Kristen Ramirez are leaving. We will be hiring in the next months.
- We have a contract with Leah Baltus to do media-specific focus groups. This will be a landscape analysis that will inform the Creative Economy work; youth practitioners (career bridge window), arts journalists, PR/marketing, etc. will be examined to gain a sense of where the interventions are that City can take to boost the Creative Economy. Focus group invitations are out and 10-12 individual stakeholder interviews will follow. This will be included in the share-out at the end of summer along with Vivian Phillips' contract work.

Chair's Report

- The Mayor's Arts Award panel included a commission member and 3 past MAA winners, and it was especially helpful to think through the past winners' processes. The review process has tightened up over the years. Recommendations were forwarded to the Mayor's Office – there were 7 finalists and the MO will pick 4.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.