



Vivian Phillips, Chair
Seattle Theatre Group

Michael Seiwerath, Vice
Chair
Capitol Hill Housing
Foundation

Jeff Benesi
Mithun

Jonathan Cunningham
EMP Museum

Priya Frank
University of Washington:
Bothell

Jerry Garcia
Olson Kundig Architects

Terri Hiroshima
Seattle Chamber

Perri Howard
Artist

Fidelma McGinn
The Seattle Foundation

Billy O'Neill
Self-Employed

Amy Piñon
Get Engaged Program

Tracy Rector
Longhouse Media

Kelly Rodriguez
ARCADE

Gian-Carlo Scandiuzzi
ACT – A Contemporary Theatre

Huong Vu
The Boeing Company

Sharon Williams
CD Forum

April 30, 2015

Randy Engstrom, Director
Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs
700 Fifth Avenue, suite 1766
P.O. Box 94748
Seattle, WA 98124-4748

Re: Seattle Arts Commission Budget Priorities for FY2016

Dear Randy,

In accordance with City of Seattle Ordinance 123460, on behalf of the Seattle Arts Commission, I am hereby submitting an outline of the Commission priorities for funds allocated for use by the Office of Arts and Culture in support of these initiatives during budget year 2016. In accordance with the Ordinance, a copy of this letter and the attached work plan are also being submitted to the Seattle City Council.

The Seattle Arts Commission started 2015 by completing two-half day sessions on Race and Equity. As a unit, we shored up our commitment to and understanding of, the impacts of inequities and how they affect the arts vitality in our community. The attached work plan is illustrative of our dedication to this work and how we intend to strengthen our ability to be an equitable arts entity. We will be applying a race and social justice lens to all of our work in order to increase opportunities and access to people from historically under-represented communities – communities of color, immigrant and refugee communities. The work plan incorporates activities and initiatives to be carried out under the leadership of our Community Development and Outreach, Facilities and Economic Development, Public Art, and Youth & Community Committees.

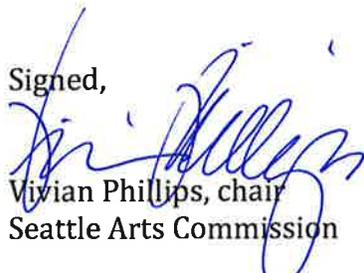
Our Commission goals are ambitious and vital to the integrity of the arts community we seek to sustain. As are most ambitious goals, resources will be critical to accomplishing this work. Therefore, during this year in addition to the focus on equity, we intend to focus on creating a roadmap that will successfully lead us to an increase in the admission tax revenue authority from the current 75% to 100%.



We request a May 2015 meeting with you and the Mayor's budget staff to discuss a collaborative approach for securing more resources to reach our shared goals.

Many exciting opportunities lay before us and with a well-vetted work plan, collaborative engagement, and focus on securing needed resources, we will be well equipped to make significant impacts in our community.

Signed,



Vivian Phillips, chair
Seattle Arts Commission

Enclosure

cc: Seattle City Council (via email)
Seattle Arts Commissioners (via email)



Seattle Arts Commission 2015 Work Plan

The Seattle Arts Commission's work plan for 2015 came from the declaration at the 2014 Mayor's Arts Awards ceremony that the commission wanted to focus on racial equity in the arts sector. The commission attended a two day equity retreat in January of 2015 to begin to seed the work of the year.

The arts have always been a catalyst for social change and the SAC, with the arts community want to dismantle institutional and structural barriers that prevent racial equity in the arts and beyond. The four standing committees of the arts commission will be using the Racial Equity Tool Kit developed by the Office of Civil Rights to look at existing programs through a racial and social justice lens. The commission will also develop new programs and initiatives that will provide opportunities and access to people who represent historically under-represented communities – communities of color, immigrant and refugee communities.

Community Development and Outreach

- Invite speakers from ARTS' funding programs to commission meetings
- Pick an event every month to attend and support
- Advocate for the adoption of Cultural Access Washington (CAW)
- Re-design the SAC website to include mission, commissioner events, and workplan
- Maintain a monthly calendar of arts events
- Host candidate forum on the arts
- Use the racial equity tool kit on the panel and selection process Mayor's Arts Awards

Facilities and Economic Development

- Work as an advisor for the LHPAI transition
- Work on the planning and implementation Central District Cultural District
- Find concrete ways to address gentrification and advocate against it
- Strategize how to make development work for the people that live in those communities
- Use the racial equity tool kit on the discussion and implementation of the CD Cultural District

Public Art Advisory Committee

- Re-establish the Emerging Artist Program with an equity focus
- Re-establish connection to the SAC
- Use the racial equity tool kit on how the PAAC reviews art calls



- **Youth + Community**
- Provide a continuum of support from arts education to career development
- Build the 2016 Career Day to be more expansive and reach out to more disciplines
- Survey students on what they want to see at Career Day