

MINUTES

Seattle Music Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 12:15 – 2:00 p.m.
Seattle City Hall, Boards & Commission Room L280

Commissioners Present:

Reese Tanimura (Chair), Sue Ennis, Catherine Harris-White, Joleen Hughes, Tony Kiewel, Tim Lennon, Sharlese Metcalf, Nate Omdal, Daniel Pak, Ben Secord, Gabriel Senn

Commissioners Absent:

Jennifer Czeisler, Jerry Everard, Ben Hunter, John Roderick, Gyasi Ross, Nicole Jon Sievers

SMC Staff Present:

Kate Becker, Meli Darby, Allie Lee, Scott Plusquellec

Call to Order:

The first meeting of the SMC was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Reese Tanimura

Public Comment:

- Dane Wilson – Re-bar
 - Re-bar is experiencing operational issues due to continuous neighborhood gentrification. Rent is going up and next month operational costs will exceed what is being made. Currently surviving on month to month basis.
 - Re-bar does not qualify for historical landmark. Looked into OED support and would also like to be put on OFM radar. Would like to know how to make cultural space work in Seattle.
 - Dane is seeking a business partner (50/50). Would like to bring in people to address the historical story of Re-bar and figure out what the alternatives are for legacy businesses – how to make it work and preserve.
 - Accessing people at Seattle Time and KEXP for press, but would like more
 - “Re-bar turns 29!” event on 2/22 (F)

Guest Presenter: Nick Fillhart and Shannon Wells – Friends of the Showbox

- [Friends of the Showbox](#) is a community coalition formed by Showbox employees, Historic Seattle, Friends of the Market, Friends of Historic Belltown, Vanishing Seattle, Rise Up Belltown, Save the Market Entrance, and individual community members to streamline advocacy efforts to save the venue so it can remain as a music operating venue. Currently there are many different groups and stakeholders involved in the issue with varying interests, and Friends of the Showbox aims to be a central clearinghouse to organize and disseminate info and prevent clutter on social media.
- Updates: Currently 116,903 people have signed the change.org petition to save the Showbox as of today, the temporary ordinance that placed the Showbox in the Pike Place Market Historic District expires in June 2019, the Landmark nomination hearing is sometime in spring, and the owner’s lawsuit against the city has a trial date of August 28.

- This year is the Showbox's 80th anniversary
- Determining what the best path forward is has been difficult. Seeking advice from SMC:
 - If SMC wanted to make a statement in support of the Showbox to City Council they can submit directly to Council Members Sawant and Herbold.
 - Consider reaching out to King County Labor
 - Nordstrom understands the music community and may appreciate the mission
 - Get every candidate in every district to talk about the issue
 - Seek help from Governor. He has asked about it and it is on his radar.
 - Work with Foster School of Business to articulate next steps (real estate components, presentation, and resources). Students are always looking for projects.

Regular Commission Business:

- Minutes from November approved
 - Daniel Pak motioned to approve, Ben Secord seconded, all approved (no oppose, no abstain)
- SMC 2019 Parking Pass applications: Will be available at next meeting.
- Seeking recommendations for Student Television Network Convention National Anthem singer. This is a volunteer opportunity for Thursday, March 28th, 2019 @ 8pm
→ Meli will send email follow up for recommendations

Guest Presenter: Bruce Skinner – Washington Festivals and Events

- ASSET (A Seattle Special Events Team) formed again recently because costs to produce festivals and special events have risen 47% and festivals need to have a collective voice to level them off and prevent festivals from going out of business.
 - Mayor and Council meetings are currently being set up and the issue is likely to get media attention
 - Need to balance the value of festivals vs. taxpayers' money
 - Commissioners are welcome to participate and those interested should let Bruce know. Meetings are held at Impact Hub, City Hall, and Seattle Center
- Comments and questions from the Seattle Music Commission:
 - Production line workers' livelihoods are at stake and recession of events will affect vendors and merchants (especially WMBE) because a large portion of their income from April to September comes from events
 - Seattle wants to invest in events, the issue is to what level. We need a unified voice to preserve the culture of Seattle and hopefully the City will hear us out.
 - There are people in our community who have a hard time finding insurance for music events, especially for hip hop, soul, and r&b events.
 - WFEA can help
 - Costs for street/block party events (SPD and Parks involved) are going up. Need to highlight that festivals and events are a major revenue generator for the City and businesses. The Seattle Center alone generates a lot.
 - ASSET is working on this
 - Does Washington Festivals and Events Association (WFEA) do advocacy work?
 - Yes. However most work is related to networking events, conferences, magazine, and certification program for event organizers. The next [2019 WFEA Educational Conference](#) is April 3-5 at the Red Lion in Bellevue

2019 Final Work Plan Review

- Work Plan needs to be presented to City Council. Final inputs/edits should be sent to Meli by Friday. A final draft will be sent out to the full commission on Monday for voting.
- Areas of focus:
 - Need to rework how work of 2019 is going to inform 2020 City of Music and beyond
 - Values of cultural space: What are the values we are coming together with? Could we have a subcommittee continue this work and develop a set of values about how we frame our questions on cultural space?
 - Actionable items: Even though we are a voluntary body we need to come up with a systemic way to move items forward
 - Need to identify action items for safer spaces.
 - There is some work being done through *Mastering the Hustle*; can we be supportive in this work some way?
 - Sassy: Airbnb had previously approached us about working on a music series/program but they had no follow up and made false promises. They also seem to have a weak structure/foundation and there have been claims about illegal activities with Airbnb. Probably best not to be involved with them.
 - Nicole had previously mentioned how house concerts could potentially be an artist-focused way of income. Can we look at this model as a safe space for artists to tour? Is there a model out there where a community is hosting these options around how artists can have housing?
 - People will open up their homes, but we need to figure out how to do it well and how to sense the red flags
 - Can we reach out to residencies that let people perform and live?
 - Can we involve Expedia?
 - Nate: Ride-sharing companies have started to book shows (concert house shows), but they have a bad history
 - What is out there for creative solutions?

→ Meli will send out follow up email with additional info along with an editable doc for feedback

1/28 Racial Equity Training Recap

- High demand for participation
- We had 30 participants with varying levels of experience with racial equity.
- Equity Matters' training was introductory. Worked on definitions, personal biases, and how participants experience day-to-day work.
- Participants' evaluation of the training:
 - Interested in what is next; how to dive into deeper topics and how to implement racial equity at workplace
 - Received comment that the training had "little/no mention of music industry"
 - This comment is troublesome and telling; racial equity is not just about the industry, it's about humanity
 - Liked "Color Brave Space" - list of items to be aware of prior to training/workshop. Helped participants be thoughtful as they have conversations and set the tone for the room

→ Meli will send out the evaluation results and Color Brave Space handout

- Equity Matters provided us with a proposal to consider additional training. Can we consider with our budget? Discussion:
 - We should offer additional training. Having multiple presentations is good because participants need the continuation. We don't want participants to forget about the training, and since it is a naturally uncomfortable conversation it needs to be recurring. It cannot just be an annual event. We want our participants to become confident about racial equity and make it a primary lens.
 - We should offer it because participants may be hungry for follow up
 - Important that we offer additional training because it affects staffing, security, access to spaces, artists, audiences, etc.
 - Participants may have been seeking specific items; Equity Matters is willing to work with us more closely to make applicable to music industry
 - We should identify expectations at training so it reflects our community issues
 - Training will not provide a direct solution, but will provide a way for participants to think about how to work with their venues/organizations
 - It is also a good platform for venue owners to convene and have real conversations about how they can change
 - Reese: From a budget standpoint it will work considering last year's budget (\$8,700 for 3 trainings)
 - For next training, Seattle Music Commission can perhaps send a letter to participants describing the event and why we are providing the training? We should also send a follow up letter to participants appreciating them for being involved and encourage them to come back
 - For next full commission meeting, Meli and Reese will put together a proposal for everyone to look at. Sassy has volunteered to help
- Meli will send out Equity Matter's proposal

Music Career Day Update

- Date and venue set for Friday, April 26 at MoPOP (majority of program) and The Vera Project (lunch, table fair, and mentoring)
- Planning is underway; One Reel has been communicative and actively working together to get to finish line
- 1/31 Youth Think Tank @ Washington Hall (led by Meli and Pak)
 - Planning meeting for programming and to identify topics for breakout sessions and target speakers. Attended by 10 youth representing our various organizational partners including Totem Star, The Residency, JazzED, The Vera Project, Across The Hall, 206 Zulu, Young Strings Project, and Seattle Theatre Group.
 - Many of the youth had not heard about Music Career Day
 - Seemed very centered around the idea that they were programming for their community
 - Talked about how we can get youth leaders involved in the Career Day experience (through moderating, emceeing, leading sessions, etc.)
 - We need a task force for programming, structure, topics, and 2 keynotes that youth are familiar with and can relate to
 - Meli will send out an editable Google Doc for brainstorming. Welcomes ideas!
- Meli is still working on providing school bus transportation. Need to identify which schools to partner with, creative advantage program, and teachers that are connected. If we do public transit, we need to adjust the time to be not too early and not too late.

- Speakers, youth leaders, and mentors will be paid
- Commissioners are encouraged to participate and get word out to organizational partners
- First round of assets will be available for feedback by the end of the week
- Upcoming goal is to open registration and send out save the date

Misc. Announcements & Updates

- 18th Annual More Music @ The Moore is March 22, 2019
- Sassy Black will have an appearance on Broad City tomorrow!

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Future Music Commission Regular Meetings:

2019 Meetings

April 17

June 19

September 18

November 13