

## SEATTLE ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Remote – Zoom Conference

**Commissioners present:** Vivian Hua (Co-Chair), Kayla DeMonte, Chieko Phillips, Ebony Arunga, Holly Jacobson, Jessica Caudle, Yeggy Michael, Mikhael Williams, Vanessa Villalobos

**Staff in attendance:** royal alley-barnes, Erika Lindsay, Allie Lee, Kathy Hsieh, Mytoan Nguyen-Akbar, Maritza Rivera

**Guests:** Marela Zacarias, Sarah Sidman, Michael Greer, Katy Corella

### **Call to Order, Introduction, Land Acknowledgement (4:03)**

#### **Icebreaker:**

What is your favorite art form and how do you engage with it?

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Ebony moved to approve the commission minutes from January. Chieko seconded. Approved.

#### **Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **Artist Presentation**

#### **Guest Presenter: Marela Zacarias (Invited by Kayla DeMonte)**

Marela shared her new installation artwork for the SeaTac Airport International Arrivals Facility. The work is installed over the baggage claim facility, and currently closed to the public but will be open soon. Marela shared her background, creative process, and inspiration and shared video segments and photos of her current work.

- IG: @ marelazacarias
- <http://marelazacarias.com/>

#### **SAC Questions/Comments:**

- The SAC asked about community feedback.
  - Marela responded that it was important to get involved in the Seattle community and have Seattle be involved in the process. She hired local artists to be part of her studio team in Georgetown. Community was embedded in her work process.

### **ArtsFund COVID Cultural Impact Study**

**Guest Presenter: Sarah Sidman, Michael Greer, Katy Corella**

The [COVID Cultural Impact Study \(CCIS\)](#) documents and analyzes the pandemic's impacts on Washington's cultural community, including nonprofit producers and presenters of art and culture, the workforce, and the public who participate in these cultural activities. Sarah overviewed the methodology, financial impacts, workforce impacts, shifts to virtual programming, and future outlooks/opportunities, and Michael overviewed the 5 key recommendations from the study.

- 5 key recommendations – reimagine the role of arts and culture in our communities; protect the cultural workforce; center equity; support the long-term adaptation of the industry; expand and sustain public support

#### **SAC Questions/Comments:**

- The SAC asked how data was collected.
  - Online survey was heavily promoted. Encouraged statewide partners to promote and share. Survey had broad parameters – an omnibus poll.
- The SAC asked what was the thing that stood out the most from the findings that led to the 5 recommendations and what is surprising given what you know?
  - The confirmation of the devastation memorialized on paper was surprising. 41% is big number of orgs that furloughed full time staff or reduced hours/pay. This represents multiple years of reduced earned income - not just for friends and family - but represents communities across the state.
  - Statewide advisory body weighed in heavily on the recommendations as well. The process over the pandemic was difficult due to a lot of movement in the sector and changing nature of participation, earned income, long term adaptations of sector, and awareness level of the benefits of the sector (for both participants and the general public).
- The SAC commented that the 5 recommendations were salient prior to the pandemic. They appreciate the case study approach and would love to see next level actions with community.
- The SAC commented that the 5 recommendations align with the ARTS office and SAC's prior year goals.
- The SAC commented that the findings align with stories they have been hearing in community, but having the research done through ArtsFund gives credibility when we present stories to electeds and community.
- The SAC commented that our sector feels exhaustion, and that this survey was conducted when things were feeling a bit hopeful. Now situations are harder and exacerbated in our sector.

#### **Director's Report**

##### **Briefing: royal alley-barnes, Maritza Rivera**

- SAC Recruitment Update - Those who made it to the recruitment panel's short list were asked to submit additional information, including some additional questions suggested by the recruitment panel. Allie gathered all this information and created packets for the Executive Committee to review.
  - There are 12 packets that the Executive committee will review and narrow down for the commission to consider. From this list of 12:

- There will be the one commission seat that will need to be voted on by the whole commission;
  - There will be the council and mayoral appointments - which will ultimately be decided by the council and mayor - but the commission will be putting forward 2 names for each seat for them to consider.
- The management and administration of the B.A.S.E. cohort has transferred to the Cultural Space Agency PDA. ARTS is funding the 2022 cohort with a \$60k program budget.
- SAC guest honorarium will change from \$100 to \$150.
- At the SAC Retreat, royal hopes to discuss roles and responsibilities between ARTS and SAC
- ARTS is presenting to CM Morales's NECC committee once a month, and encourages the SAC committees to also present on advocacy/worm updates.

**SAC Questions/Comments:**

- The SAC commented that the whole SAC would like more involvement in the process and would like transparency of names.
  - ARTS staff clarified that SAC decided to create a recruitment panel for this process in fall 2021, and Kayla, Holly, and Chieko volunteered to serve on that panel. Each step of the recruitment process and correspondence to applicants has been consulted and co-created with the recruitment panel. ARTS has been supporting in an administrative capacity and helping move the work forward. The recruitment panel and executive committee decides on next steps/process.
  - The recruitment panel asked ARTS staff to share the short list packets with the whole SAC. Allie will send link to the packets in a follow-up email.

**Co-Chairs Report**

**Briefing: Vivian Hua**

- The SAC will have a 4-hour retreat in mid-March to early April. Allie will send out a Doodle to find a good time for all.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.