

SAC MARCH MINUTES | March 24, 2020

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Meeting Open: 4:30 PM

Notes taken by Chris Maccini

Board Members Present:

Chris Maccini, Andrew Whitver, Emma Noyes, Madison Bush, Eva Silverstone, Katie Patterson Larson, Patty Tully, Daniel Lopez, Miguel Gonzales, Chuck Horgan, E.J. Iannelli, Garret Daggett, Ginger Ewing, Remelisa Cullitan

Staff Members Present: Melissa Huggins, Mika Maloney

Absent: Derrick Oliver, Chase Ogden

Opening

- Melissa virtually welcomed the group.
- No February Minutes to vote on; postponed to next meeting.

Governance:

- Public Meetings Training - Melissa will re-send to anyone who doesn't have it. Please complete ASAP.

General Updates:

- Mika updates on postponed/rescheduled events & shows for Chase Gallery
- SAGA Grantees Round 1 - \$42,100 awarded to seven artists/organizations:
 - Spectrum Singers - \$7,000
 - The Botanical Alchemists - \$7,000
 - Ryan Abrahamson - \$7,000
 - Ginger Oakes GO Art Center - \$6,710
 - Foster Art Project - \$4,500
 - Richmond Art Collective - \$7,000
 - Wayward Artists' Playwright Forum - \$3,500
- Other SAGA Updates
 - City grant of \$100,000 to bolster SAGA funding over 3 years. Now restructured to put more money into 2020 to help support artists affected by coronavirus. Would take total to \$150K for 2020 (up from \$125K).
 - Highlighting Operational Support for Organizations for round 2-3.
 - Looking at adjusting schedule in order to make money available to organizations sooner. Considering a rolling application.
- Spokane Artist Relief Fund
 - Small \$500 grants to support individual artists for lost revenue due to Coronavirus.
 - Huge Thank You to Mika for fielding all of the applications.
 - All we're asking for is a resume/artists' website, W-9, and letter of acknowledgment
 - No need for formal report from these grantees
 - Small donations are trickling in.
 - Getting some media traction.
 - Asking artists for permission to tell their stories for storytelling piece of campaign
 - \$25,000 allocated from Spokane Arts governing board. Funds coming from Jeanette Harras bequest.
 - First disbursements paid out March 24th. \$5100 to 14 artists. More money going out this week.
 - 4 are queer-identified

- 4 are artists of color
 - 3 artists with disabilities
- Note that this Artist Relief fund is *not* for restaurant workers or other wage-based employees that are eligible for unemployment benefits. Gig workers/freelancers are NOT eligible for unemployment so this might be their only resource.
- Artist Trust has also launched a state-wide artist relief fund. \$500 - \$5,000. Artists can apply every 4 weeks.
- Arts events rescheduling for the fall - Fall calendar is filling up QUICK! Please encourage people to put events on the Spokane Arts Calendar to avoid conflicts.
- Remember: Spokane Arts Award Saturday, Sept. 26th. @ Lucky You Lounge

Programming:

- Open Murals Calls right now. Please direct people to those
 - Alleyways deadline extended to April 9th
 - Hooptown Courts deadline is end of April
 - Both posted to website
- Hiring for murals maintenance position - Please share. Only 5 - 25 per month. Hope to hire someone in April to start in May.

Advocacy:

- Artists Relief Fund is top priority right now
- Melissa and Mika calling around to local arts orgs to check in
 - Are there needs for Arts Orgs that are not currently available or in the works?
- City of Spokane
 - Melissa is drafting an informal report for the mayor & council so that creative economy is not forgotten in relief efforts.
 - GSI has convened a "Regional Business Recovery Work Group," aimed at inventorying the current state of affairs, assessing needs and gaps, and connecting businesses to assistance.
 - Message from the City of Spokane so far has been directing people/orgs to apply for state and federal resources.
- Letter to Governor Inslee - Statewide letter asking for creative economy to be included in relief efforts.
- Statewide Advocacy - Whipsmart & Lisa Brown working to create Task Force that will develop policy recommendations for extending unemployment benefits to freelance/gig workers.
- Federal Support - Additional list of links asking for federal support for artists.
- Artist Interviews for Riverfront Park - Melissa has requested to move to virtual interviews via Zoom.
- Cultural Access - Revised proposal for how to handle the next 3-6 months. Will be distributed to committee.

Updates from Commissioners

- Design Review Board (Chuck)
 - Riverbend Apartments reviewed. Possible opportunities for public art.
 - DRB 3/25 meeting postponed at least one month. - City's proposal for centennial trail. Public project, so there will be space for art. But Federal funding probably cannot be used for art.
 - Spokane Guild School TBD.
- Arts WA (Ginger)
 - All COVID right now. Refer to information Melissa has already shared.
- Flag Committee (Miguel)
 - Flag committee meeting Saturday 3/20 - Discussing sub-committees

- One for methods of voting (online, newspaper, mail-in, etc.). Another for voting parameters & methodology.
- Murals (Mika)
 - Murals Committee still has money for a public mural project. One possible location is the retaining wall on Stevens (along Edwidge Wilson Park). Summer 2020.
- Meet the Makers (Melissa)
 - Will reach out to commissioners who volunteered to jury soon about this.
- Daniel - Spokane Arts Supply has not shut down Mural-Painting class (yet). Scheduled for May
- Eva - Online artists presence on social media has been really encouraging. Discussing with library colleagues about an exhibit of art made during the coronavirus crisis.
- Miguel - Cinco de Mayo Fest at The Bing is moving to a live-streaming event.
- Patty - SAGA opening to culinary arts? Yes. People are excited about this. How to apply for a grant for this. Starting the conversation and getting ideas.

New business/ Good of the Commission

- None

Closing

- Motion to close, 5:45 Unanimous approval without discussion.
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 28th, 4:30pm**