



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Human Services, Labor, and Economic Development Committee

Agenda

Friday, March 6, 2026

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Chair
Dionne Foster, Vice-Chair
Joy Hollingsworth, Member
Debora Juarez, Member
Rob Saka, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8808; AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov

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Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

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SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
**Human Services, Labor, and Economic
Development Committee**
Agenda
March 6, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Meeting Location:

Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:

<https://seattle.gov/council/human-services-labor-and-economic-development>

This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Please register in advance in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

A. Call To Order

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Public Comment

Members of the public may address items on the agenda and matters within the purview of the committee. Please register in advance to be recognized by the Chair.

D. Items of Business

1. Seattle Film Commission Overview

Supporting Documents: [Presentation](#)

Briefing and Discussion (20 min)

Presenters: Kat Ogden, Seattle Film Commission; Chris Swenson, Office of Economic Development

2. [Appt 03452](#) Appointment of Michael Gaston as member, Seattle Film Commission, for a term to April 23, 2028.

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote (15 min)

Presenters: Michael Gaston and Kat Ogden, Seattle Film Commission; Chris Swenson, Office of Economic Development

3. **King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) and
Continuum of Care**

*Supporting
Documents:* [Presentation](#)

Briefing and Discussion (40 min)

Presenter: Jeff Simms, King County Regional Homelessness Authority
(KCRHA)

E. Adjournment



Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2852, **Version:** 1

Seattle Film Commission Overview

SEATTLE FILM COMMISSION

2026 Updates
Position 11 Appointment



Seattle Film Commission - Mission and structure

*The Seattle Film Commission is a diverse group of film industry and community representatives established to advise and **make recommendations to the City of Seattle on the development of policies and programs that enhance the economic development of Seattle's film industry, including promoting the sustainable growth of family-wage jobs prioritizing workers who have been historically underrepresented in the industry.***

- Established in 2023
- Commissioners reflect **11 film disciplines**
 - **5 positions** appointed by **City Council**
 - **5 positions** appointed by the **Mayor**
 - **1 position** appointed by the **Commission**
- Administered by **Office of Economic Development**



Seattle Film Commission - Priority committees



Workforce and professional development

Model best practices in public-private partnerships to grow film crew and business in the City of Seattle, the Puget Sound Region, and the State of Washington

Public policy

Advise City of Seattle on policies and initiatives that educate, train, retain, attract, and grow film jobs and businesses

Marketing and branding

Promote Seattle as a premier filming destination, centered in growing access for youth and traditionally underrepresented groups

Seattle Film Commission - Select priorities

Commercial film attraction and retention

Partnering and advising OED on its commercial production initiative

SPD support for traffic management for film productions

Recommendations on parity of incentive for SPD staffing film productions

"Inside Scoop" series

Producing monthly public film industry conversations with sector-specific experts

Film industry tax and incentive policy

Advising on statewide tax impacts and incentive support for film production



Seattle Film Commission - Positions

Name	Organization	Position/ Appointed by	Term	Category	Next Appointment
Lowell Deo	Freelance actor	1 (Mayor)	1 year	On-screen talent or their representatives	April 2026
Davis Powell	SAG-AFTRA	2 (Mayor)	2 years	Film industry labor unions	April 2028
Michael Huang	Milli Agency	3 (Mayor)	3 years	Advertising and creative agencies	April 2026
Tom Florino	Amazon Studios	4 (Mayor)	1 year	Commercial producers or production companies	April 2026
KD Hall	KD Hall Foundation	5 (Mayor)	2 years	Film schools, programs, or film educators	April 2028
Champ Ensminger	Editor	6 (Council)	3 years	Post-production companies and personnel	April 2026
Kat Ogden	Producer	7 (Council)	1 year	Film production crew	April 2026
Lex Scope	Scope Screenings	8 (Council)	2 years	Film festivals or content distribution companies	April 2028
Mark Freid	Freelance locations	9 (Council)	3 years	Film location managers	April 2026
Anthony Tackett	African Diaspora Filmmakers, SFI	10 (Council)	1 year	Film organizations belonging to and advocating for communities underrepresented in the film industry	April 2026
Michael Gaston	Spotify	11 (Commission)	2 years	Immersive technology and emerging technology businesses	March 2026

Commissioner appointment: Michael Gaston

Position 11 – Immersive technology and emerging technology businesses

Michael Gaston is a nationally recognized leader in emerging media and modern storytelling, with a decade-long track record of shaping popular culture. His work has earned industry awards, built global audiences in the millions, and sparked discourse that inspires equal parts admiration and outrage – including sustained attacks from the alt-right, which he considers an accidental credential.

He has held top executive roles including CEO of Cut.com and HiHo Kids, President of StageTEN Studios, and Chief Creative Officer of NBAT2, the groundbreaking joint venture between the NBA and Take-Two Interactive. His projects have been featured on TED, in The Wall Street Journal, on The Daily Show, and across other major cultural platforms – often in contexts that make executives nervous and creatives feel seen. He currently serves as Executive Creative Director at Spotify, where he helps bring video podcasts to Netflix and expand how stories move across platforms.





Thank you!



Legislation Text

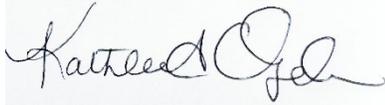
File #: Appt 03452, **Version:** 1

Appointment of Michael Gaston as member, Seattle Film Commission, for a term to April 23, 2028.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Michael Gaston		
Board/Commission Name: Seattle Film Commission		Position Title: Position 11: Immersive and Emerging Technology Businesses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Seattle Film Commission		Term of Position: * 4/24/2025 to 4/23/2028 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position
Residential Neighborhood: West Seattle	Zip Code: 98146	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Michael Gaston is a nationally recognized leader in emerging media and modern storytelling, with a decade-long track record of shaping popular culture. His work has earned industry awards, built global audiences in the millions, and sparked discourse that inspires equal parts admiration and outrage — including sustained attacks from the alt-right, which he considers an accidental credential. He has held top executive roles including CEO of Cut.com and HiHo Kids, President of StageTEN Studios, and Chief Creative Officer of NBAT2, the groundbreaking joint venture between the NBA and Take-Two Interactive. His projects have been featured on TED, in The Wall Street Journal, on The Daily Show, and across other major cultural platforms — often in contexts that make executives nervous and creatives feel seen. He currently serves as Executive Creative Director at Spotify, where he helps bring video podcasts to Netflix and expands how stories move across platforms. Gaston joins the Seattle Film Commission committed to elevating the region’s creative economy, championing bold voices, and pushing the boundaries of what storytelling from the Pacific Northwest can be.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 1/5/2026		Appointing Signatory: Kat Ogden Chair, Seattle Film Commission

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

Michael Gaston

Creative Executive | Brand Builder | Social Storyteller

Apologies for my LinkedIn profile. It's mostly performance art.

████████████████████ | New York, NY

Former CEO of Cut.com and Chief Creative Officer of NBAT2 (NBA x Take-Two Interactive), I bring 15+ years of experience building culturally resonant brands and campaigns that live at the intersection of sport, style, and storytelling. I've scaled teams from 3 to 50+, developed IP that captured billions of organic views, and turned launches into global cultural moments. From viral studio brands like Cut and HiHo to next-gen live and interactive platforms, I've consistently delivered creative ecosystems that convert passion into participation.

EXPERIENCE

Chief Creative Officer

NBAT2 Media (NBA x Take-Two Interactive), New York NY | 2024 - 2025

Recruited to lead the creative vision for NBAT2, a joint venture redefining basketball culture at the intersection of sports, gaming, and entertainment. Built the brand from zero to launch, overseeing content strategy, talent development, narrative frameworks, and IP creation.

- Built the brand from scratch for a joint venture between the NBA and NBA 2K; led end-to-end development of creative identity, narrative framework, and content strategy.
- Spearheaded a 1,000-piece content rollout across, social, experiential, and video channels, including category-level storytelling and seasonal activations.
- Led a cross-functional creative team of 25+ across copy, design, video, and animation.
- Developed internal brand voice and messaging playbooks
- Drove retail partner integrations and supported storytelling strategy for brand launches.
- Introduced GenAI tools to explore efficiency in copy and content creation workflows.

Founder & CEO

Cut.com, Seattle, WA | 2015 - 2020

- Built one of the internet's most successful digital studios, producing viral formats like *100 Years of Beauty* and *HiHo Kids*; scaled channels to 30MM+ subscribers. And 1B organic views a month.
- Directed campaign and launch creative for consumer product spinouts, including Truth or Drink, a breakout card game distributed through online and retail channels.
- Led a 50-person team across creative, operations, and sales; oversaw hiring, playbook development, and daily workflow management.
- Partnered with Netflix, MTV, and Showtime on IP development and platform integrations.
- Developed branded content campaigns for Microsoft, Disney, and Robinhood.

President

StageTEN Studios, Toronto, CA | 2020 - 2022

Recruited to demonstrate the potential of StageTEN's platform as an interactive storytelling powerhouse.

- Developed hybrid content formats blending livestream tech with unscripted storytelling.
- Produced an experimental live and interactive episode of *Wild 'n Out* for MTV.
- Built and led the creative team; spearheaded a full brand refresh for *StageTEN*.
- Executive Produced the live launch of Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion's *WAP* music video on YouTube.

Executive Producer & Brand Consultant

Various (MTV, Spotify, Girlfriend Collective, APM), Remote / Global | 2021 - 2023

- Rebranded *APM Studios* redefining mission, vision, values, and creative direction
- Developed social-first formats for MTV and social-first campaigns and content strategies for other youth and culture brands.
- Helped Spotify to integrate Parcast and Gimlet teams under Spotify Studios
- Directed copy and creative tone systems for B2C and B2B verticals

Creative Director → Advisor

Say Studios, Seattle + New York + Toronto (Remote) | 2024-2025

Co-founded a narrative-first studio producing premium fiction formats designed for digital-native platforms. Say creates binge-worthy, emotionally intelligent series that live at the intersection of streaming drama, creator culture, and platform native storytelling.

- Developed original IP strategy focused on serialized, genre-forward storytelling optimized for short-form video ecosystems.
- Recruited the founding creative team and advised on brand identity, position, and growth model.
- Transitioned to an advisory role in late 2024 while remaining involved in strategic feedback and creator development.
- Say's debut slate includes high-concept, cliffhanger-driven series aimed at Gen Z and young millennial audiences.

Co-Founder & Creative Director

OKAF, Remote / Global | 2023 - Present

Creative collective dedicated to producing provocative, eventized, viral projects that challenge norms and shape culture. OKAF operates at the intersection of art, satire, and social commentary — with projects spanning narrative performance, disruptive campaigns, and genre-defying children's books.

- Built a creative studio focused on experimental storytelling, AI tools, and immersive narrative design.

EARLY ROLES: Executive Creative Director at *SFST*; Senior Video Producer at *Stripes39*; Director at *Rogue Scholar*; Video Production Manager at *CBS Radio*

CORE STRENGTHS

- Social-First Storytelling & Platform-Native Formats
- Brand & IP Development
- Business Development
- Creative Team Leadership and Mentorship
- Format, Creative, Business, and Platform Strategy
- Brand Voice & Narrative Systems
- Cross-Functional Stakeholder Collaboration

SELECT PRESS & SPEAKING

- *Executive produced WAP digital rollout for Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion.*
- *Speaker at Vidcon, Creative Mornings, and The Next Web.*
- *Featured in Forbes, RollingStone, WSJ, TED, and TMZ*

EDUCATION

University of Washington — B.A., English & The Humanities | 2005

Seattle Film Commission

11 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 126678, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 5 City Council-appointed
- 5 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify): Commission

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
2	M	5,6	1.	On-screen talent	Lowell Deo	4/24/2024	4/23/2027	2	Mayor
6	M	2	2.	Film industry labor unions	Davis R. Powell	4/24/2025	4/23/2028	1	Mayor
1	M	7	3.	Advertising and creative agencies	Michael Huang	4/24/2023	4/23/2026	1	Mayor
6	M	N/A	4.	Commercial producers or production companies	Tom Florino	4/24/2024	4/23/2027	2	Mayor
2	F	5	5.	Film schools, film programs, or film educators	KD Hall	4/24/2025	4/23/2028	1	Mayor
1	M	4	6.	Post-production companies and personnel i.e., editors, composers, post-supervisors	Champ Ensminger	4/24/2023	4/23/2026	1	City Council
6	F	4	7.	Film production crew	Kat Ogden	4/24/2024	4/23/2027	2	City Council
6	M	3	8.	Film festivals or film content distribution companies	Lawrence Alexander III	4/24/2025	4/23/2028	1	City Council
6	M	N/A	9.	Film location managers	Mark Freid	4/24/2023	4/23/2026	1	City Council
2	M	N/A	10	Film organizations for underrepresented communities	Anthony Tackett	4/24/2024	4/23/2027	2	City Council
1	M	4	11.	Immersive technology	Michael Gaston	4/24/2025	4/23/2028	1	Commission

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART												
			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	4	1			1	2				2			
Council	4	1			1	2				2			
Other	1				1								
Total	9	2			3	4				4			

Key:

- *D List the corresponding Diversity Chart number (1 through 9)
- **G List gender, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary O= Other U= Unknown
- RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

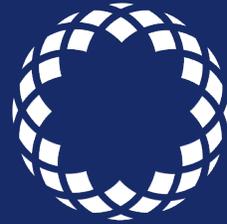
Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.



Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2853, **Version:** 1

King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) and Continuum of Care



KCRHA
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Continuum of Care (CoC) Update

March 6, 2026

Jeff Simms, Chief Program Officer

Current Award Breakdown

Considered
Permanent Housing
by HUD

\$60,258,890 Total
(\$40,618,513 above
30% cap for
permanent housing
renewals)

Program Types	Current Amount
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	\$42,886,107.00
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	\$12,871,413.00
Joint Component (JC)	\$4,501,370.00
Transitional Housing	\$1,600,876.00
Safe Haven	\$815,465.00
Supportive Services Only	\$101,684
Coordinated Entry	\$2,264,224.00
HMIS	\$426,784.00
Total	\$65,467,923.00

Note: Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Grants (\$1,500,000) are not included in the annual renewal demand.



People & Providers Impacted

Households and Individuals at Risk

Over 3,247 households risk losing housing or support if funding lapses occur.

Major Provider Organizations

Large providers like Plymouth Housing and DESC operate thousands of units reliant on Continuum of Care funding for operations and services.

Service and Staffing Impact

Funding loss threatens staffing stability, slows enrollment, and may reduce housing units and supportive services availability.

Broader System Implications

Funding disruptions increase shelter demand, strain health systems, and elevate unsheltered homelessness and emergency service pressure.



Where We Are Today



Injunction issued by a Federal District court halting release of FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



HUD appealed the injunction on Monday, potentially affecting awards renewing from July through Dec 2026



Congressional appropriations set timelines requiring HUD to non-competitively renew awards if actions are not taken in a certain timeframe

FY25 Funding at Risk (Q3-Q4)

Significant Funding Risk

A total of **\$52.6 million** in FY25 funding is at risk if HUD issues a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Q3 and Q4 grants, threatening key homelessness housing programs.

Impact on Core Services

Funding supports Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, and services stabilizing thousands of households.

Need for Proactive Planning

Local contingency reserves, provider communication, and advocacy to Congress are critical to manage funding uncertainties.



Upcoming Funding Competition (FY 2026)



FY26 Preparation is Under Way

- Expected to occur Summer 2026
- Planning for:
 - Permanent Housing caps
 - Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) limits
 - Supportive service mandates
 - New projects our community needs
- Strengthening competitive positioning:
 - Continuum of Care (CoC) Merit Review mapping
 - Adding new CoC Board members
 - Strengthening coordination and documentation of work with system partners



FY26 NOFO Funding Forecast*

Total Award (excluding planning funds)	Likely Renewed (Tier 1, 60% ARD)	Potentially Lost (Tier 2, 40% ARD)	30% Perm. Housing Cap for Renewals	Perm. Housing At-Risk of Loss
\$65,467,923	\$39,208,754	\$26,259,169	\$19,640,377	\$40,618,513

*Amounts based on known FY24 award amounts, not inclusive of any projected FY25 award increases.



FY26 NOFO Risks

30% Permanent Housing Cap Impact

- HUD's 30% cap may place **\$40.6 million** in permanent housing funding at risk, challenging King County's homelessness system.

Required Renewal Amount (Per Appropriation)

- **\$26.2 million** at risk, pushing programs into more competitive, higher-risk situation.

Implications for Housing Programs

- Reduced federal support risks destabilizing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units and may force service model changes or scaling down programs.





KCRHA

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

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@KCRHA

