

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!

