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From: **Tana Yasu** <>Date: Sun, Sep 19, 2021 at 8:38 AMSubject: Mayor Durkan's appointment of Royal Alley-Barnes as Acting Director at the Seattle Office of Arts & CultureTo: <lorena.gonzales@seattle.gov>Cc: briannathomas <brianna.thomas@seattle.gov>

September 19, 2021

Greetings City Council President Gonzales,

We are a Coalition of Black Women, (CoBW). Yes, 100 Black Women from various walks of life, supporting Mayor Durkan's appointment of Royal Alley-Barnes as, (Interim), Acting Director, City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture.

Audre Lorde, Poet, reminds us that "...Black women are not one great vat of homogenized chocolate milk. We have many different faces, and we do not have to become each other in order to work together."

We are a proud people connected to our Ancestors. We have the power of claiming centuries of Art-making and spreading the power of art across the world. Royal knows this need for the arts and artists. She respects it in all peoples and communities. Our city needs her, to assure that the work of the office becomes the work of the people, And their creative possibilities.

Why have you not approved the OAC Appointment? It is incumbent on you, as a public official to refrain from political tactics or other inappropriate behavior in this appointment.

Please take your public responsibilities seriously. Sign the authorizing papers. Knowledgeable people know and endorse Alley-Barnes. These are people from diverse racial, cultural and artistic demographics—all walks of life.. They have written you emails and or letters to ask and at times imploring you to affirm the Mayor’s appointment of Royal Alley-Barnes as the Acting Director for the Office of Arts and Culture.

What else do you need?” Alley-Barnes has all of the public sector, art, administrative, advocacy and creative credentials required for this Appointment as Acting Director OAC.

When excellence is not enough, the underlying condition is racism.

The City needs an effective ‘go-to’ public sector arts champion. Royal Alley-Barnes has the proven experience to frame ongoing City of Seattle arts investments.

Sign the Appointment Papers Council Member Gonzales, Sign them now. Your failure to do so speaks to a lack of positive support for our Black Community and for Black women and their commitment to this City.

As a Coalition of Black Women (CoBW), sensitive to how the arts can build a civic society, we stand ready to talk with you so you can get your job done.

Respectfully,

Tana Yasu
Co-Chair Seattle Womens Commission
CoBW
Historic Central Area Arts & Cultural District