

Members

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Chair
Jes Takla, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Jasmine Brown
Erica Chang
Katie Dean
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Vernon Ng
Derek Nunn
Ean Olsen
Jeanette Sanchez
Kenya Shakoor
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist
Marissa Laubscher, Public Art Program Manager
Rebecca Solverson, Division Manager
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Special Meeting

Date: June 1, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Virtual and UWT Tacoma, Cherry Parkes, Room 325

Commission Members in Attendance:

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Chair
Jes Takla, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Jasmine Brown
Erica Chang
Katie Dean
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Vernon Ng
Derek Nunn
Ean Olsen
Kenya Shakoor

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Marissa Laubscher
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila

Guest Presenters:

Jennifer English

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Hannah-Clarke Gilmore

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Jeanette Sanchez

1. Call to Order

1:06 pm

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares called the meeting to order.

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxwəstəłlils gwəl ʔutxwəlšucidəbs həlgwəʔ.

"We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language."

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2. Consent Agenda

1:06 pm

Commissioner Gilmore had an excused absence.

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the June 1 meeting.

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Commissioner Behe

Seconded: Commissioner Nunn

Carried

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

1:07 pm

There were no public comments on agenda items.

4. Welcome

1:08 pm

Vice Chair Takla shared an updated draft JEDIS Rubric framework that can be used as a tool to see how aligned programs and projects are with the core values of the Commission. Commissioners and staff can provide suggested updates to the document.

5. Warm Up

1:12 pm

Commissioner and staff took turns sharing about a dream for a space or a space that made them feel creatively energized, inspired, welcomed, empowered, or connected to a community.

6. Spaceworks Tacoma Presentation

1:47 pm

Jennifer English presented a brief overview of the work of Spaceworks Tacoma. She shared four filters for Spaceworks' work: centering creative placemaking, connecting talent to opportunities, staying nimble, and sharing tools to enable others. Jennifer shared an overview of past and current Spaceworks' programs including Artscapes window installations, coworking spaces, and business incubator program. She shared about advocacy work around non-residential uses for spaces within residential areas and her work to research examples of what other cities like San Francisco are doing to help reduce blight and vacancy, including penalties for blight.

Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

7. Break Out Sessions

2:37 pm

Commissioners and staff broke into four small groups and worked collaboratively around the question "What are the problems related to space we're trying to solve?" Groups brainstormed space problems specific to various fictional personas and organizations, based on demographics of actual local artists and organizations.

Commissioners and staff broke into four small groups and worked collaboratively around the question "What are the opportunities related to space that we see?" Each group brainstormed space opportunities and ideas and then grouped them by themes.

8. Report Back

3:55 pm

Groups shared out some of the ideas from their discussions that they were most interested in. Some of the ideas shared include:

- Using unregulated spaces to bring art to where people already are
- Facilitating inter-artist connections
- Using City-owned spaces for creative uses
- Sharing knowledge
- Sharing resources
- Decentralized access to festivals and events - mobile space activation
- Collaborations with other spaces and entities
- Arts residencies
- Shared community spaces for creatives
- Frame library
- Mentorship programs
- Using public school theater spaces
- Public square for performance art
- Website with map for all arts events

9. Adjourn

4:05 pm

MEETING FREQUENCY

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm. All meetings of the Tacoma Arts Commission are open to the public.



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