

Members

Michael Kula, Chair
Jeanette Sanchez, Vice Chair
Jasmine Brown
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Marissa Kall
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jamika Scott
Kenya Shakoor
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams
Ton Williams
Heidi Wygle
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: May 8, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual and in-person

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at

www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Michael Kula, *Chair*
Jasmine Brown
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Marissa Kall
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jamika Scott
Kenya Shakoor
Joe Williams
Ton Williams
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

Chevi Chung
Naomi Strom-Avila
Rebecca Solverson
Amy McBride
Clarissa Gines
Lisa Jaret

Guest Presenters:

Katie Lappier
Gabe Campagna
Randy Engstrom
Dion Thomas

Commission Members Excused Absence:

MaryMikel Stump

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Jeanette Sanchez, *Vice Chair*
Alejandra Villeda

1. Call to Order

5:06 pm (00:00)

Chair Kula called the meeting to order. Chair Kula recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłlils 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.”

2. Consent Agenda (00:42)

Commissioner Stump had an excused absence.

Staff requested to add an item to the agenda to introduce the topic of Creative Economy, to be presented by Randy Engstrom of Thirdway Creative.

Chair Kula asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda as well as the minutes from the April meeting.

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Seconded: Commissioner Joe Williams

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:37)

Chair Kula had no items to report on.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (02:46)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations

a. Fundee Highlight (03:27)

Staff introduced Katie Lappier and Gabe Campagna from Barefoot Collective. Barefoot Collective received 2023 Community Arts Projects funding to support the production of 'Healing Movement Community Performance', a two-day, site-specific dance event that will be held at Wapato Park in May. Katie and Gabe gave a presentation about Barefoot Collective. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

6. Action Items

a. Tacoma Mall Area Plan Artist Selection (24:15)

Horatio Hung-Yan Law and Linda Wysong were recommended by a selection panel for the Tacoma Mall Area Plan opportunity. Staff presented samples of their past work. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares spoke about her experience serving on the panel and her reflections on the recommended artist team. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I make a motion to approve the funding panel's choice of Horatio Law and Linda Wysong for this project."

Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Second: Commissioner Ton Williams

Motion: Carried

b. Cancellation of July meeting (35:00)

Chair Kula introduced how the July meeting of the Commission is typically canceled each year to allow for a summer break. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I'll move to cancel the July meeting."

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Second: Commissioner Nunn

Motion: Carried

7. Presentations

a. Creative Economy

(39:25)

Staff gave an update about work around the creative economy and introduced Randy Engstrom, a consultant who is working on a creative economy plan for the Washington State Department of Commerce. Randy gave an update about the State's work in developing the plan. Amy McBride announced her retirement on July 1. Staff introduced Dion Thomas, a consultant who is working with the City regarding Equity in Contracting. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

8. Discussion/Updates

a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee

(58:00)

Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares gave a report out about the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee meeting on April 20 including discussion regarding the potential for a Youth Poet Laureate and ways to support artists' needs due to loss caused by gentrification. Commissioners were encouraged to attend the May 18 subcommittee meeting to help draft a Labor Acknowledgment.

Chair Kula introduced the idea of inviting a DEI subcommittee member to attend and provide input at monthly Executive Committee meetings. The subcommittee will discuss the idea further.

9. Staff Check-In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

(01:11:18)

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Tacoma Poet Laureate Christian Paige participated in an engagement with the Mayor's Youth Commission in early May, will be speaking at an event for SOTA, SAMI, AND IDEA parents in May, and will be participating in the Juneteenth BLM Mural event at Tollefson Plaza on June 15.
- Resources for Creatives: there were 12 attendees at the LGBTQ+ Core Competency workshop presented by Rainbow Center. Commissioner Brown shared her reflections on the workshop. The next workshop, Building Better Business Foundations Part I, will be presented by Spaceworks Tacoma as a hybrid workshop on June 14.
- The following dates are set for Tacoma Arts Month 2023: Proclamation on September 26, Kaleidoscope at STAR Center on October 5 with setup on October 4, Tacoma Studio Tour on October 14 and 15, and Arts at the Armory on November 11 and 12.
- Chevi Chung announced her departure from the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality at the end of May.
- Council Coffee meetings have been scheduled starting May 15 and will continue through June. Commissioners will report out about the meetings at upcoming Commission meetings.
- Arts & Economic Prosperity Study: 896 audience surveys have been collected to date. Staff are continuing to collect organizations surveys, which will continue through May.
- Tacoma Artists Initiative Program: the first TAIP cohort meeting was held in April. Staff invited Commissioners to sign up for TAIP mid-project meetings.

b. Public Art Updates

(01:34:36)

Staff gave an update about the celebration of the BLM Mural on June 15, which will offer another opportunity for community members to add a handprint on the mural. Staff gave an update about the call to artists for Safe Routes to Schools, Chris Duenas' work with the Lushootseed concrete stamps, David Long's sidewalk

mural project and how he needs permission from the adjacent property owner, and the awarding of a National Endowment for the Arts grant for work in the McKinley neighborhood.

c. Tacoma Creates

(01:39:27)

Staff gave an update regarding Rico Lastrapes' departure and the current recruitment for the Tacoma Creates Program Assistant. Staff gave an update about Tacoma Creates funding for the 2023-2024 cycle and an overview of the re-authorization efforts for Tacoma Creates.

10. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

(01:41:25)

Commissioner Neal shared about the Grand Cinema's experience taking Rainbow Center's LGBTQ+ Core Competency workshop.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

(01:42:17)

Commissioner Nunn shared about the Hilltop Plaques projects. Staff shared that there is a survey open to collect input about the project.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(01:47:20)

Commissioner Shakoor recommended discussing the development of resources to support creatives who aren't selected for opportunities.

11. Adjourn

6:55 pm (01:49:59)

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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