

Members

Kenya Shakoor, Chair
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair
Aleks Aurelion
Connie Behe
Katie Dean
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Joe Williams
Heidi Wygle
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

Davida Ingram, Division Manager
Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist
Ricky Reyes, Public Art Project Manager
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Program Manager
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: June 10, 2024

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:

Kenya Shakoor, Chair
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Katie Dean
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Derek Nunn
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Joe Williams
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Ricky Reyes
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila

Guest Presenters:

Councilmember Jamika Scott

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Wade Neal

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Aleks Aurelion

1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:03)

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

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiif 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 (00:48)

Commissioners Gilmore and Neal had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the June 10 meeting as well as the minutes from the May 13 meeting.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve the agenda and the minutes."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Nunn

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:20)

Chair Shakoor read the bio for Davida Ingram, the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division's new Division Manager.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (05:52)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Council Liaison Check-In (06:25)

Councilmember Jamika Scott shared about the 2025-26 budget cycle, which will be challenging because General Fund expenses are expected to outpace revenue. City departments have been asked to provide proposed budget cuts, which will be reviewed before any budget is adopted. Council is currently setting priorities for the budget.

Councilmember Scott shared about upcoming One Tacoma visioning workshops, which are an opportunity for community to provide input. Community can also share their thoughts during the community forum section of Council meetings and as part of public comment at Council meetings when there is a relevant agenda item.

Councilmember Scott hosted a film roundtable. Feedback from the event is being processed and next steps are being determined.

Commissioners and staff asked clarifying questions.

6. Discussion/Updates

a. 'Council Coffee' Meeting Report Out (27:28)

Commissioners gave updates about their meetings with City Council members:

- Deputy Mayor Hines – meeting with Commissioners Behe and Sanchez
- Councilmember Daniels – meeting with Vice Chair Brown and Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares
- Mayor Woodards – meeting with Vice Chair Brown, Commissioners Kula and Aurelion
- Councilmember Bushnell – meeting with Chair Shakoor and Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares
- Councilmember Scott – meeting with Chair Shakoor and Commissioner Wygle
- Councilmember Diaz – meeting with Commissioner Behe
- Councilmember Walker – meeting with Commissioners Dean and Takla
- Councilmember Rumbaugh – meeting with Commissioners Hope and Takla

Meetings included presentation of the Commission’s advocacy items: public art staffing, increase in arts funding, reauthorization of Tacoma Creates, and Tacoma Public Utilities’ participation in the 1% for Arts program.

Chair Shakoor shared that staff submitted 2025-26 General Fund budget requests for:

- \$280,000 increase in General Fund allocation for arts funding programs.
- \$204,000 in General Fund allocation for public art staffing.

b. Tacoma Arts Month and AMOCAT Arts Awards (37:50)

Staff invited Commissioners to think about a recent meaningful arts experience and the people and organizations who made those experiences possible. Commissioners were invited to make a nomination for the 2024 AMOCAT Arts Awards.

Staff shared an overview of Tacoma Arts Month events:

- October 1 – proclamation of Tacoma Arts Month at City Council meeting
- October 2, 6:30 – 9 pm at STAR Center – Kaleidoscope opening party and AMOCAT Arts Awards
- October 12 & 13 – Tacoma Studio Tour
- December 7 & 8 – Arts at the Armory

Applications for the Tacoma Studio Tour and Arts at the Armory are due June 28.

Commissioners Behe, Dean, Hoppe, Sanchez, Takla, and Wygle volunteered for the Tacoma Studio Tour and Arts at the Armory application review. Volunteers are also needed for the AMOCAT Arts Award panel.

c. Funding Subcommittee Update (58:03)

Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares shared an overview of the subcommittee’s work including the results of the funding gaps and needs prioritization survey with an overview of the top ranked priorities. Commissioners were invited to continue providing input on the survey. The subcommittee will look at what is needed to implement some of the gaps and needs and how to adjust current funding programs to meet needs. Commissioners were invited to join the next subcommittee meeting on June 25. Additional time to discuss arts funding will be added to future Commission agendas.

7. Staff Check-In (1:09:36)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Next TAIP funding cohort gathering in August
- TAIP mid-project meeting update
- Tacoma meet-up at Seattle Asian Art Museum on June 15 for a tour of Anida Yoeu Ali’s exhibit

b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Dedication of artwork at Melanie’s Park on June 12
- Dedication of artwork at South Pacific Aquarium on June 15 & 16
- Dedication of artwork at Eastside Community Center on June 21
- Dedication for Pride Mural the second week of July

- Recording of poems by Larchmont Elementary students to accompany concrete stamps
- Spaceworks Tacoma’s release of a call for artists for a mini public art training program with temporary projects and one permanent project
- Meetings with Tacoma Public Utilities staff regarding participation in the 1% for Art program
- University of Puget Sound intern Brendan Bell’s inventory of the entire Municipal Art Collection
- *If It Hits The Ground, It Hits The Sound* painting project with SAMI students in Point Defiance
- Multiple murals in the works:
 - Natalie Dupille – 9th & Pacific, 9th & A Street
 - Nofo Porter – Union & South Tacoma Way, including Tacoma News Tribune coverage
 - Peter Boome – Center & Yakima
 - Breyahna Coston – Sprague & South Tacoma Way
 - Breyahna Coston and Chris Paul Jordan – Tacoma Public Library Main branch
 - Perry Porter – Stuart Middle School
 - Liam Miller & Bethany Fackrell - Bay Street Tunnel
- Maintenance and design contract with Dionne Bonner for the BLM Mural
- Public Works Artist in Residence Natalie Dupille’s research into potential policy changes

c. Tacoma Creates

Staff shared that funding for the 2024-25 Tacoma Creates funding cycle has been announced. \$5.9 million has been awarded to 74 organizations.

8. Report Back

(01:32:14)

a. Advocacy Reports

There were no items.

b. Funded Project Updates/ Upcoming Arts Events/Arts Events Attended

Commissioners shared about events they have attended or been involved with including:

- Anida Yoeu Ali’s Red Chador performance and fundraising campaign for Indonesian ArtCity tour
- Commissioner Joe Williams commissioned by Kennedy Center
- Empathos Theater and University of Puget Sound’s production of Fairview
- NEA grant to UWT Theater program to create a devised musical
- Larchmont Elementary youth response to seeing their poetry that will be installed
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

9. Community Comment

(01:47:07)

Chair Shakoor explained that the Community Comment agenda item is time for community’s voiced to be heard.

Joy Muhammad shared about a monthly BIPOC somatic writing workshop. The next workshop will be on June 16 at Wright Park Conservatory.

10. Adjourn

6:56 pm (01:51:36)

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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