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 Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Staff

Amy McBride, *Tacoma Arts Administrator*
 Naomi Strom-Avila, *Cultural Arts Specialist*
 Rebecca Solverson, *Public Art Specialist*
 Asia Tail, *Arts Program Coordinator*

Minutes

Special Meeting

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Date: March 18, 2017

Location: YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties, 4701 S. 19th Street, Advancement Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Mike Sweney, *Chair*
 Rachel Cardwell, *Vice Chair*
 Scott Campbell
 Heather Conklin
 Kareem Kandi
 Traci Kelly
 Halley Knigge
 Michael Kula
 Donald Lacky
 Liesl Santkuyl
 Wanda Thompson
 Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Staff Present:

Amy McBride, *Tacoma Arts Administrator*
 Naomi Strom-Avila, *Cultural Arts Specialist*
 Rebecca Solverson, *Public Art Specialist*
 Asia Tail, *Arts Program Coordinator*

Guests:

Denise Jackson

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Johnaye Kendrick
 Paul Throne

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Quincy Henry

1. Call to Order**10:14 am****Chair Sweney**

Chair Sweney called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Agenda**10:14 am****Vice Chair Cardwell**

Commissioners Kendrick and Throne had an excused absence.

747 Market Street, Room 900 · Tacoma, WA · 98402 · Phone (253) 591-5192 · Fax (253) 591-5232



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Vice Chair Cardwell asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda.

There was a motion: “So moved.”

Motion: Michael Kula

Second: Halley Knigge

Motion: Carried

3. Introduction

10:15 am

Commissioner Wilmot-Stenehjem welcomed the group and gave an overview of arts programming at the YMCA.

4. Icebreaker

10:20 am

Commissioner Thompson and guest Denise Jackson led a diversity bingo icebreaker. Commissioners moved around the room asking each other questions and debriefed after the exercise.

5. Tacoma Arts Commission Primer

10:54 am

Amy McBride and Rebecca Solverson gave presentations covering the basic duties, functions, and projects of the Commission including:

- Funding programs
- Public art – the general dispersal of public pieces across Tacoma and upcoming projects
- Tacoma Murals Project – will be focusing on traffic box wraps this year
- Programs and initiatives updates –Arts EnviroChallenger will be discontinued due to funding cuts, developing support for makers and branding Tacoma as a Maker City is ongoing
- Advocacy

Commissioners shared their thoughts and experiences as related to these functions.

6. ArtFull Tacoma Work Plan and Measurements

11:30 am

Amy McBride facilitated an activity in which Commissioners matched programs and achievements from the 2016 Year in Review to the initiatives in ArtFull Tacoma. Commissioners then discussed areas of success and potential growth.

7. Lunch

12:40 pm

8. Arts Advocacy

1:10 pm

Amy McBride presented an overview of Cultural Access Washington. Commissioners discussed and asked questions. The agenda items regarding deeper discussion of national and local arts advocacy, as well as practicing for council coffee meetings were tabled for a future meeting. Groups also continued working on the ArtFull Tacoma work plan activity.

After considering the 2016 Year in Review and ArtFull Tacoma in depth, Commissioners were asked to write and share their answers to the questions ‘what are you most excited about?’ and ‘what would you like to see advanced?’



What are you most excited about:

- the amount of talented artists working and living in Tacoma – it's a very large and diverse community that is very self-motivated and focused
- In our 2025 plan we addressed underserved/disadvantaged populations and we are beginning to do it
- Inclusion – focus on reaching new artists and equity
- Personally having a louder voice in outreach efforts because of the Commission association
- Learning all the varied arts programs better
- Continuing the emphasis on access to underserved populations/neighborhoods
- A resurgence of the arts in Tacoma
- Growth and traction as Tacoma's arts ecosystem expands
- More opportunities for artists and patrons
- The number of people that understand the importance of the arts
- 5 year plan – intentionality around Cultural Access WA, potential for school/arts, equity focus
- Maker City
- More artists and artwork in Tacoma in new ways
- Work with equity, expanding access for artists of color
- Cultural Access WA
- Rising visibility/clout of Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality (momentum)
- Growth of the arts community in Tacoma
- Spaceworks
- Public art
- Increase in applications
- Complete and healthy neighborhoods, focus on spider web

What would you like to see advanced:

- Greater public awareness and participation in Arts Commission programming
- A subcommittee to strategize or a measurement tool to capture and evaluate census, other collected data, or use consultants
- Recruitment of youth representatives to the Commission
- More retreats/study sessions as a collective; monthly meetings are just not enough time
- Increased intensive capacity building and mentoring new artists through training/development
- Address the dance gap in Tacoma, support adult professional dancers
- Small group focus with teens and young adults
- Leading the charge to establish a signature literary arts event/program for the city



- Arts projects and events more evenly distributed around the city
- Reasonable admission prices so the elderly and low-income populations can attend arts events
- Increase in the number of people that understand the importance of the arts
- Capturing equity focus demographics
- Work with public schools
- Asset mapping
- 1% for public art policy
- Public Art In Depth, part II/professional development
- Geographic development
- Partnerships with schools
- Connecting all Tacoma Public Schools to the arts community in a more strategic way
- Fair salaries city-wide
- Training for artists (business and marketing, specifically)
- More private arts projects
- Public art plan – flexible spending targeting underserved communities
- An essential arts elements checklist
- Arts events calendar/app

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

