

Members

Kenya Shakoor, Chair
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair
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
Ton Williams
Heidi Wygle
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

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: January 8, 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
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Derek Nunn
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Joe Williams
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Lisa Jaret
Ricky Reyes
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Wade Neal

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Ton Williams

1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:00)

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.

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłiis 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 (00:51)

Commissioners Fernandez-Llamazares and Neal had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the January meeting as well as the minutes from the December meeting.

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

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Hoppe

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:26)

Chair Shakoor welcomed new Commissioners Connie Behe, Katie Dean, Hannah-Clarke Gilmore, and Jes Takla. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (19:10)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Action Items

a. Larchmont Concrete Stamps (19:57)

Staff introduced Saiyare Refaei, who is leading the Larchmont Concrete Stamp public art project, and gave an overview of the construction project around Larchmont Elementary and initial work with the ASB students. Saiyare shared about the four class sessions held with the students, as well as some of the designs and poems developed. Poetry will be installed at 17 locations around Larchmont Elementary. There will be 15-17 poems; 5 will be translated into Spanish. Final designs are still being created and should be ready in February.

Commissioners discussed and shared thoughts including a desire to see a way to make the poetry accessible for people who are visually impaired, making sure the participating children are credited for their poetry, and inviting children to read their poems live during the artwork dedication.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve the preliminary proposal for this public art project."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Second: Commissioner Kula

Discussion: Commissioners discussed their desire to see the addition of an accessibility / sensory component to the final proposal.

Amended Motion: "I'll amend my motion to say that we should approve the preliminary process with the expectation that next month we have an agenda item to approve an additional sensory component suggested by the artist and the public arts office."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Second: Commissioner Kula

Motion: Carried

6. Discussion/Updates

a. Arts Commission Annual Retreat

(54:45)

Staff introduced the Commission’s annual retreat. Typically, the retreat is split in to two sessions with the first session focused on teambuilding and the second session digging into one or two focus areas.

Commissioners shared how they would like to continue with two sessions this year but the timeline for the second session could be later in the year, once a new Division Manager is appointed for Arts & Cultural Vitality. Commissioners shared topic ideas for the second session including: a deeper dive into the work of the Commission and Division and its connection to ArtFull Tacoma, ways to make visual art more sensory inclusive (e.g. in public art projects), looking at the prioritized list of potential DEI Subcommittee topics, looking at ArtFull Tacoma and at what other similar and larger size cities are doing to see where we have room to grow.

Commissioners Gilmore and Takla and staff Daniel Garcia volunteered to help plan the retreat.

b. DEI Subcommittee Planning – What does the local arts and cultural community (inclusive of artists/creatives and organizations/groups) need to thrive?

(1:09:28)

Chair Shakoor shared a recap of DEI Subcommittee discussions thus far and led a conversation around the prompt: “What does the local arts and cultural community (inclusive of artists/creatives and organizations/groups) need to thrive?” Commissioners discussed; thoughts shared include:

- Childcare to make space for creating art
- Making arts accessible to people with different impairments
- Time and space to create work
- Performing Artist in Residence opportunity within the City (music, film, theater, etc.)
- Ways for performing artists to become part of the City’s permanent art collection
- Rent control or artist housing
- Artist sabbaticals for artists to take time off their regular jobs to focus on their creative pursuits
- Examining protections for creatives (housing, employment, etc.)
- Consider universality of needs (e.g. housing) and how they extend beyond just artists to the larger community. City leadership might be more open to ideas if they were pitched more universally
- Some ideas need State Legislative backing and would need long-term state level advocacy and support - the Commission can support that work
- Creation of an artist union

7. Staff Check-In

(01:29:23)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Developing Resources for Creatives professional development workshop series in response to feedback from the community
- Upcoming traffic box art wrap social media challenge
- Notification and press release have been sent out and contracts are being written for 2024 Community Arts Projects funding
- One 2023 Community Arts Projects contract will continue into 2024
- Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding cohort meeting on January 24

- Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality is undergoing a name change to Arts & Cultural Vitality Division

b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Environmental Services Artist in Residence opportunity closed and the panel will start review of applications
- Public Works Artist in Residence opportunity is open
- Upcoming murals include Bay Street Tunnel, Center & Yakima, South Tacoma Way & Union, Stewart Middle School, M Street & South Tacoma Way, South Sprague Avenue, and Tacoma Public Library main branch

c. Tacoma Creates

Staff shared that the Tacoma Creates funding applications for 2024-25 will be released at end of January. Tacoma Creates funding is for arts, culture, heritage, and science non-profit organizations that operate in Tacoma. Staff will send info directly to Commissioners to help amplify.

8. Report Back

(01:42:35)

a. Advocacy Reports

There were no items.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

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

- Traffic box wraps in South Tacoma area
- Printmaking exhibition at Tacoma Community College
- Tacoma Light Trail installations and sound components
- Commissioner Joe Williams' performance in Seattle
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day events including UWT Black Student Union's Unity Breakfast and the City's celebration, which will include a performance by Tacoma Poet Laureate Christian Paige

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

9. Adjourn

6:52 pm (01:47:33)

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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