

Members

Traci Kelly, *Chair*
 Dane Meyer, *Vice Chair*
 David Boe, *City Council Liaison*
 Marty Campbell, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
 Scott Campbell
 Rachel Cardwell
 Joel Chang
 Heather Conklin
 Matt Hudgins
 Sarah Idstrom
 Kareem Kandi
 Halley Knigge
 Donald Lacky
 Mike Sweney
 Wanda Thompson
 Katrina Toft
 Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Community & Economic Development

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.

Staff

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

Date: June 8, 2015

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Traci Kelly, Chair
 Scott Campbell
 Joel Chang
 Heather Conklin
 Matt Hudgins
 Sarah Idstrom
 Halley Knigge
 Don Lacky
 Mike Sweney
 Wanda Thompson
 Katrina Toft
 Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Staff Present:

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
 Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist
 Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist

Guests:

Paul Throne

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Dane Meyer, Vice Chair
 Rachel Cardwell
 Kareem Kandi

1. Call to Order**5:03 pm (00:00)****Chair Kelly****2. Consent Agenda****5:03 pm (00:09)****Chair Kelly**

Chair Kelly asked if Commissioners had a chance to review the minutes from the last meeting and the agenda for this meeting. There were no objections.

Vice Chair Meyer and Commissioners Kandi and Cardwell had an excused absence.



3. Chair's Report**5:03 pm (00:54)****Chair Kelly**

Chair Kelly attended the dedication of for the two public art pieces at Bay Terrace.

Commissioner Idstrom is resigning from her seat on the Commission. She was thanked for her years of service.

Paul Throne will be appointed to fill Commissioner Idstrom's seat.

4. Staff Check-In**5:06 pm (03:36)**

Staff met with the consultants who will be working on the 5-year Art Plan. The consultants will be conducting direct interviews with City staff. They will present to the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

The City has a Continuous Improvement Project underway to assess the 1% for Art program, how it works as a funding mechanism, and how to make it function better.

Staff will be attending the Americans for the Arts Conference the week of June 8.

Vice Chair Meyer and Commissioners Toft, Chang, Conklin, Cardwell, Thompson and Knigge have volunteered to help with Pop-Up Art Putt!

Commissioners volunteered to attend/evaluate funded projects as follows:

date	organization	event	volunteer
07/25/15 - 08/15/15	Christopher Jordan	COLORED 2015 exhibit	Katrina Toft, Mike Sweney
07/18/15 - 07/19/15	Tacoma Maritime Fest	2015 Tacoma Maritime Fest	Joel Chang, Wanda Thompson
7/17/15	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	West Side Story	Joel Chang
7/18/15	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	West Side Story	Mike Sweney
7/24/15	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	West Side Story	Wanda Thompson
7/25/15	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	West Side Story	Matt Hudgins
7/26/15	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	West Side Story	Traci Kelly
07/16/15	Washington State Historical Society	In the Spirit 2015 Exhibit opening reception	Wanda Thompson, Don Lacky
08/8/15	Washington State Historical Society	In the Spirit: Northwest Native Arts Market and Festival	Wanda Thompson, Don Lacky, Joel Chang

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation has granted \$15,000 to support Tacoma Arts Month.



5. Discussion/Updates

A. Creative Space Tacoma Survey Results **5:12 pm (09:40)**

Amy McBride shared the results of the Creative Space Tacoma survey draft. The study shows that there is enough demand for artist live/work space in Tacoma to support 68 units. Commissioners reviewed results and asked clarifying questions.

A local developer is planning on developing the McKinley substation into affordable artist live/work space. An upcoming Monday Mixer event will focus on mixed use/creative use space.

B. Union Station: Chihuly Installation **5:23 pm (20:33)**

Chihuly Studio has approached the City to see if the City will take ownership of the Chihuly art installations in Union Station. The federal government, who currently leases the building space, does not want responsibility for the artwork. To ensure that the artwork remains in Tacoma, the City could accept ownership of the work. The artwork would then be insured under the City's self-insurance. It would require \$3,000 - \$5,000 in cleaning maintenance each year. If the proposal moves forward, the Commission will review a gift proposal this fall and the recommendation would go to Council for approval.

Commissioners watched a KCTS documentary video from 1994 about the artwork.

C. Metro Parks Tacoma Public Art Update **5:35 pm (32:13)**

Amy McBride and Rebecca Solverson have been working with Metro Parks Tacoma to develop a public art plan and procedures for their 1% for Art program. Staff will be managing the public art selection process for one project on the waterfront and one at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Staff is also looking at the policies and procedures around the City's 1% for Art program.

D. TeenTix **5:37 pm (34:02)**

TeenTix recently presented to the Marking the Arts Task Force. TeenTix is considering expanding into Pierce County, depending on the results of a feasibility study. TeenTix is based on a partnership model where organizations offer \$5 day-of-show tickets to teens who are signed up for the program. Commissioners discussed and asked clarifying questions.

E. Pop-Up Art Putt! **5:48 pm (45:20)**

Pop-Up Art Putt! runs June 18 – 21 with the VIP opening reception on June 18 at Tacoma Art Museum. Commissioners viewed photos of the in-process temporary golf holes.

F. The Arts and Tacoma 2025 **5:55 pm (52:50)**

Commissioners split into two teams and each team was assigned two core values of Tacoma 2025. Each team assessed what the core values meant, what is currently being done to address it, where there are gaps, and who our community partners are or should be.

Government Performance

- a. **Ensure accountable, efficient, and transparent city services**
- b. **Engage residents, stakeholders, and partners in the future of Tacoma**



c. Strengthen the City's fiscal sustainability

- What does it mean?
 - Accountability of the Tacoma Arts Commission – responsibility with City funds
 - Representation and engagement with community
 - Surveys and reports are accessible to the public
 - Bring people to the arts to strengthen fiscal sustainability
- What is Tacoma already doing?
 - Open meetings and communication, including digital access
 - Panels, programs, and community advocacy
 - Year in Review documents
 - Funding of Arts Anchor Fund organizations and other contracts
- Where are the gaps?
 - Current staffing model
 - Visibility of Commission and consumable info about programs
 - PSAs and stronger social media presence
 - Cultural organizations and communities – language barriers
 - Greater diversity of Commission, funded artists & organizations
 - Communicating the value of our work and influence
- Who can we partner with?
 - Asia Pacific Cultural Center
 - Centro Latino
 - Churches
 - Community Centers
 - ArtsFund

Natural and Built Environment

- a. Increase transportation options**
- b. Sustain and improve Tacoma's natural environment**
- c. Grow and enhance the vitality of Tacoma's neighborhoods**
- d. Improve and maintain Tacoma's streets**

- What does it mean?
 - Partnering with transportation sector
 - Public art programs
- What is Tacoma already doing?
 - Art Bus
 - Spaceworks Tacoma
 - Sound Transit partnership
 - Metro Parks Tacoma partnership
 - Arts EnviroChallenger
 - Traffic Box Wrap Project
 - Tacoma Murals Project

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- Public Art
- Where are the gaps?
 - Getting public art, beyond murals, in all neighborhoods
 - Sharing our knowledge and technical expertise with others
 - More sculptures
 - Capacity of staff and resources
 - Free transit zone on 3rd Thursdays for easier access to arts
- Who can we partner with?
 - Business districts
 - Neighborhood councils
 - Pierce Transit
 - Continued work with Sound Transit
 - Continued work with Metro Parks Tacoma
 - Private transportation companies
 - Service organizations

Health and Safety

a. Improve neighborhood safety

b. Increase active living

c. Improve overall health

- What does it mean?
 - Art encourages walkability of neighborhoods
 - Art destinations to encourage people to get out
 - Art as therapy
- What is Tacoma already doing?
 - Drawing people into more livable, walkable, inviting places
 - Improving mental health through arts
- Where are the gaps?
 - Artist safety and health
 - Helping artists navigate legal and livability issues
 - Health insurance for artists
- Who can we partner with?
 - YMCA
 - Metro Parks Tacoma
 - Tacoma Public Schools
 - Hospitals
 - Churches
 - DSHS
 - Occupational health at higher education institutions (UPS, PLU, UW)

Economic Vibrancy & Empowerment

a. Increase the number of quality jobs throughout Tacoma

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b. Diversify Tacoma's living wage business base**c. Improve neighborhood business districts****d. Strengthen downtown Tacoma as a business core and residential option**

- What does it mean?
 - Arts attract and retain quality jobs and employers
 - Focus on programs that provide opportunities for growth, learning, and entrepreneurship
 - Public art, murals, and festivals engage residents
 - Walkability of downtown Tacoma
- What is Tacoma already doing?
 - Spaceworks Tacoma
 - PA:ID program
 - Arts funding programs
 - Tacoma Murals Project
 - Public events (e.g. Pop-Up Art Putt!)
 - Prairie Line Trail
- Where are the gaps?
 - Assistance to artists wanting to relocate/invest in Tacoma
 - Communication between departments
 - Outreach
 - Workshops for arts start-ups
 - Arts development liaison in planning department
- Who can we partner with?
 - Business districts
 - Neighborhood councils
 - Community & Economic Development Department
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Comcast/Click!
 - Real estate agents

The information gathered through the Commission's Arts and Tacoma 2025 brainstorm sessions will be shared with Tanisha Jumper, who is managing Tacoma 2025.

6. Report Back**A. Advocacy Reports****6:45 pm (01:42:15)**

Commissioners Sweney and Lacky met with Marilyn Strickland and she is generally supportive of the arts.

Vice Chair Meyer met with Robert Thoms and he is supportive of the arts.

Commissioners Sweney and Thompson met with Marty Campbell and he is supportive of the arts but voiced a desire to see more public art and arts opportunities on the east side.



Chair Kelly and Commissioner Sweney met with Lauren Walker and Joe Lonergan. They are both supportive of the arts. CM Lonergan voiced a desire to see more than just murals in South Tacoma. Commissioner Sweney noted that murals are not just about solving issues of blight but are about activating space. While the Tacoma Murals Project may have started as a way to address blight, neighborhoods have seen how beautiful murals can be and are starting to want murals in their neighborhoods as well. There are an increasing number of privately funded murals around Tacoma and this shows how the community is embracing them.

Chair Kelly and Commissioner Thompson met with Victoria Woodards and Ryan Mello's aide. CM Woodards is generally supportive of the arts. CM Woodards asked what the Commission would want if they could ask for specific financial support from Council. Chair Kelly voiced a desire for more staffing to be able to more fully provide for the needs of the community. CM Woodards suggested the Commission ask Council for this need.

Commissioners discussed the idea of asking Council for more staff. Chair Kelly will ask for a meeting with David Boe, Council liaison to the Commission. Commissioner Chang suggested a sub-committee of Commission members research out information and work on making a case for additional staffing.

Commissioner Chang: "So, is it appropriate to then put forth a motion to create a sub-committee to answer these questions and start moving us?"

Chair Kelly: "Yes, thank you. Are you so moving?"

Commissioner Chang: "Yes."

Motion: Joel Chang
Second: Wanda Thompson
Motion: Carried

Chair Kelly and Commissioners Thompson, Chang, Hudgins, and Toft volunteered to sit on a sub-committee to explore the topic further.

B. Arts Events Attended

7:10 pm (02:07:11)

Commissioners shared art events they attended or have been involved with including Tacoma City Ballet's production of Cinderella, tour of 2 Ravens Studio, Spaceworks Tacoma fundraiser, Hilltop Poetry Slam, Isaac Olsen's exhibit, 253-second Short Film Viewing Party, a TAIP mid-project meeting with Jeremy Mangan, and Diane Hansen's Love Locks.

C. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

7:13 pm (02:10:49)

Chair Kelly suggested that the staffing sub-committee report back to the Commission in August.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm

