

Mike Sweney, *Chair*  
Heather Conklin, *Vice Chair*  
Lillian Hunter, *City Council Liaison*  
Keith Blocker, *City Council Liaison Alternate*  
Rosie Ayala  
Scott Campbell  
Michelle Douglas  
Quincy Henry  
Paula Jacobson  
Traci Kelly  
Johnaye Kendrick  
Halley Knigge  
Michael Kula  
Liesl Santkuyl  
Wanda Thompson  
Paul Throne  
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

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Date: March 3, 2018

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

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Mike Sweney, *Chair*  
Heather Conklin, *Vice Chair*  
Rosie Ayala  
Scott Campbell  
Michelle Douglas  
Paula Jacobson  
Johnaye Kendrick  
Halley Knigge  
Liesl Santkuyl  
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem  
Wanda Thompson

*Staff Present:*

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

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Traci Kelly  
Michael Kula  
Paul Throne

*Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Quincy Henry

### 1. Call to Order

**10:18 am**

**Chair Sweney**

Chair Sweney called the meeting to order, recognizing that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

### 2. Consent Agenda

**10:19 am**

**Vice Chair Conklin**

Commissioners Kelly, Kula, and Throne had excused absences.

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

There was a motion: “I so move.”

Motion: Wanda Thompson

Second: Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Motion: Carried

### **3. Introduction**

**10:20 am**

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

Commissioners introduced themselves.

### **4. Icebreaker**

**10:39 am**

The icebreaker was postponed for the sake of time.

### **5. Tacoma Arts Commission History and Primer**

**10:39 am**

Amy McBride presented the history highlights, basic duties, functions, and projects of the Commission, and an overview of upcoming projects for 2018. Commissioners shared their thoughts and experiences as related to these functions.

### **6. Creative Community Conversations Data Review**

**11:50 am**

Amy McBride facilitated an activity in which Commissioners reviewed and categorized feedback collected from the January Creative Community Conversations event. Commissioners then discussed areas of success and potential growth.

Commissioners shared the following themes that recurred in the data for each breakout group.

#### Arts Participation

- Transportation and access to arts opportunities
- Equitable access to arts events – low income, students, etc.
- All ages music venues
- Art in all neighborhoods
- Use empty buildings
- More murals and opportunities to paint them
- Centralized database of local events and opportunities
- Year-round festivals

#### Public Art

- General lack of awareness about what the Arts Office already does
- More murals and opportunities to paint them
- Centralized database of local events and opportunities



- Information in multiple languages
- Connecting businesses and artists
- Incorporate art into private and public development
- Intergenerational art making
- Drop in space for artists
- Street poetry
- Creative art spaces in all neighborhoods

#### Diversity, Equity, Inclusiveness

- Disabilities, military, seniors, women, POC, LGBTQ, geographic
- Professional artist mentorship
- Facilitated community feedback
- Wellness, healing
- Scholarships or sliding scale costs
- Space like On the Boards in Seattle
- Art in curriculum in schools
- Language barriers
- Comparisons to sports
- Accessible space and lists

#### Youth Arts Participation

- Lack of awareness of events and opportunities for kids
- Lack of awareness of the benefits of arts
- Marketing and calendar
- Access, money, equity, costs including transportation and parents' time
- In school programs, not just after school programs
- Transportation
- Communication to kids and parents
- Public schools need to be part of the conversation

#### Creative Economy

- Similar themes as other groups
- Big city-wide events, festivals, art markets
- Places to sell art
- Opportunities to make money
- Incentives for creative businesses
- Tracking
- Attract and sustain art collectors

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- Need for-profit galleries
- Artists creating in Tacoma but selling elsewhere
- More support for artists – space, ability to make a living, training
- Mentorship for all levels, disciplines, ages
- Marketing what’s happening
- Accessibility regardless of experience
- Gate keepers – need more transparency
- Visual asset mapping by region
- Yearly calendar open to submissions

#### Tacoma Creates

- Concern that money would only go to larger cultural organizations
- Concern about additional sales tax, would prefer property tax
- Race/diversity + gentrification concerns

#### **7. Lunch**

**12:40 pm**

#### **8. Artfull Tacoma Review and Progress**

**1:57 pm**

Amy McBride presented an overview of Artfull Tacoma and projects that align with each strategy in the plan. She also shared demographic data compiled from artists submissions from 2016 and 2017, and discussed progress on Creative Tacoma (the legislation formerly known as Cultural Access WA).

#### **9. Arts Advocacy Priorities and Talking Points**

**2:40 pm**

Commissioners discussed and decided on key points of advocacy to promote during the upcoming Council Coffee Meetings. Staff shared data on funding and arts programming highlights in each council district in the Year in Review document.

Commissioners discussed the following advocacy talking points:

- Need for more money to distribute through our funding programs - we are receiving more applications every year, and are bringing in more money to the City through arts related spending according to the AEP5 survey results
- Need for more staff and contractors
- Give an overview of Creative Tacoma
- Give an overview of the upcoming 1% for Public Art ordinance update

**Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm**

