

Members

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Chair
Jes Takla, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Jasmine Brown
Erica Chang
Katie Dean
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Vernon Ng
Derek Nunn
Ean Olsen
Jeanette Sanchez
Kenya Shakoor
Heidi Wygle
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist
Rebecca Solverson, Division Manager
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: January 13, 2025

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:

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Chair
Jes Takla, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Jasmine Brown
Erica Chang
Katie Dean
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Vernon Ng
Derek Nunn
Ean Olsen
Jeanette Sanchez
Kenya Shakoor
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila
Lisa Jaret

Guest Presenters:

Horatio Law
Linda Wysong
Elisheba Johnson

1. Call to Order

5:04 pm (00:04)

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

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiif puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłlils 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

(00:57)

There were no excused absences.

Vice Chair Takla asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the January 13th meeting as well as the minutes from the December 9th meeting.

There was a motion: "I move."

Motion: Commissioner Behe

Seconded: Commissioner Kula

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping

(02:07)

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares welcomed Commissioners Erica Chang, Vernon Ng, and Ean Olsen. Each commissioner introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

(14:37)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Action Items

a. Tacoma Mall Area Plan Proposal

(16:09)

Staff introduced Horatio Law and Linda Wysong. Horatio and Linda presented an overview of their art and placemaking plan for the Tacoma Mall Subarea. They provided background around their work and gave an overview of the plan proposals, including a look at the top priorities.

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares shared about her experience on the panel. Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

There was a motion: "I move to approve the subarea plan."

Motion: Commissioner Hoppe

Seconded: Commissioner Dean

Motion: Carried

b. E. 64th Street, Phase 2 Artwork Proposal

(56:30)

Staff introduced Elisheba Johnson. Elisheba provided background information on the East 64th Street, Phase I project and gave an overview of the Phase II proposal. Phase II will include outreach work with local elementary schools and the proposed project will include a concrete stamp pattern for the sidewalks, mosaic medallions, and granite markers that will be etched with phrases in Lushootseed and translated to English. The phrases will be provided by members of the Puyallup Tribe.

Commissioners ask questions and provide comments.

There was a motion: "I move that we approve the E. 64th Street, Phase 2 Artwork Proposal."

Motion: Vice Chair Takla

Seconded: Commissioner Shakoor

Motion: Carried

6. Discussion/Updates

a. Arts Commission Annual Retreat

(1:24:07)

Staff introduced the Commission's annual retreat including an overview of past formats. UWT was discussed as a potential location for the retreat. The sessions would likely be held around April – May.

Staff asked for a subcommittee to help plan the format and topics for the retreat. Vice Chair Takla and Commissioners Behe, Gilmore, and Wygle volunteered for the subcommittee. Potential retreat topics discussed include JEDIS, artist spaces, continuity between retreats, an overview of the Commission's work, the impact of administrative changes, and the poet/literary laureate position.

b. JEDIS Subcommittee Update

(01:36:21)

Commissioner Gilmore and staff provided an update on the topics covered in the last JEDIS meeting. The subcommittee is developing a framework and starting with a research phase, during which subcommittee members plan to hold one-on-one coffee meetings with each Commissioner to gather input. Commissioners were asked to sign up for a meeting.

Vice Chair Takla shared that the subcommittee is updating the term JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) to JEDIS. The S is for Sustainability.

The next JEDIS meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025, at 11:00 am.

7. Staff Check-In

(01:40:50)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates – Funding, Community Programming, Public Art, Tacoma Creates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- The City currently has a spending and hiring freeze in place
- Marissa Laubscher has been hired as the new Public Art Program Manager
- Carol Wolfe is the new Interim Director of Community & Economic Development Department
- Tacoma Venues & Events Department is beginning a process to evaluate access and usage of City-owned theaters, with Keen Consulting conducting the study. Commissioners Sanchez, Shakoor, and Nunn expressed interest in being part of these discussions
- 2025 Community Arts Projects funding contracts are underway
- Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding applications are due on January 27
- Commissioners were asked to update their contact information
- Preparations are underway to launch the Tacoma Poet Laureate call to artists, but progress is on hold pending final budget decisions and the end of the contracting freeze
- The first set of granite pavers for the Hilltop Plaque Project will be installed in February
- A new round of Traffic Box Wraps are being installed in the Tacoma Mall area and work is underway with Sound Transit to install some wraps along the light rail
- The Environmental Services Artist in Residence, Teruko Nimura, is teaching at SAMI in January
- The February Commission meeting agenda will feature presentations on the McKinley Hill Overlook and the Public Works Artist in Residence program
- The Tacoma Creates reauthorization timeline has shifted slightly and staff will be presenting updates to the Joint Municipal Action Committee
- The recent Tacoma Creates community survey received 831 responses with feedback emphasizing the importance of Tacoma Creates funding and its reauthorization

8. Report Back

(01:55:30)

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:

- Reopening of the Tacoma Public Library main branch
- Tacoma Light Trail
- The first workshop reading of Takhomaway, a new musical based on a short story
- Antonio Gomez's TAIP-funded concert
- Commissioner Hoppe's Little Free Gallery
- 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

(01:57:20)

There were no items.

10. Adjourn

7:01 pm (01:57:38)

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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