

#### 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  
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison  
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

#### Staff

Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist  
Marissa Laubscher, Public Art Program Manager  
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:** June 9, 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.tacoma.gov/tacomaartscommission](http://www.tacoma.gov/tacomaartscommission)

#### *Commission Members in Attendance:*

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

#### *City Staff Present:*

Daniel Garcia  
Marissa Laubscher  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Lisa Jaret

#### *Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Hannah-Clarke Gilmore

### 1. Call to Order

5:06 pm (00:10)

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares called the meeting to order.

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhig'wətəb čət tx'wəl tiit ʔa čət ʔal tə swatx'wix'w'x'wəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dx'wəstətlils g'wəl  
ʔutx'wəlšucidəbs həlg'wəʔ.

"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

(00:45)

Commissioner Gilmore had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Takla asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the June 9 meeting as well as the minutes from the May 12 and June 1 meetings.

There was a motion: "I move to approve the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from May 12<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>."

Motion: Commissioner Ng

Seconded: Commissioner Behe

Carried

## 3. Public Comment on Agenda or Arts & Culture Items

(02:00)

Commissioners shared arts and culture items they had attended recently or art projects they were involved with.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

## 4. Action Items

### a. J Street Artist Selection

(06:52)

Staff presented an overview of the J Street mural project, which will include designing and painting murals for the "bulb-out". Staff shared work samples from the artist, Kenya Adams, who was selected by a panel for the project. Commissioner Nunn shared that the selection was informed by the potential growth and development of artists in our community.

Commissioners asked questions and provided comments. Staff requested a motion to approve the panel's selection.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve Kenya Adams as the selection for the J Street Mural."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Behe

Carried

## 5. Discussion/Updates

### a. Retreat Reflection & Follow-up

(16:12)

Staff shared the process of synthesizing data regarding creative space needs that was collected during the June 1 retreat. She shared a list of actions that staff think might have potential next steps, given budget and capacity restrictions. Next steps and actions proposed by staff include: investigating City-owned space that could be opened to artists, investigating blanket permits for vendors, and investigating a central calendar/distribution list.

Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

### b. Council Coffee Report Back

(37:57)

Staff thanked the Commissioners for their participation in the Council Coffee sessions. Commissioners shared comments about their experiences in the meetings with City Council members:

- Councilmember Scott – meeting with Commissioner Gilmore and Chair Fernandez-Llamazares  
747 Market Street, Room 900, Tacoma, WA, 98402 | (253) 591-5191 | [www.tacoma.gov/arts](http://www.tacoma.gov/arts)

- Councilmember Walker – meeting with Vice Chair Takla and Commissioner Behe
- Councilmember Rumbaugh – meeting with Vice Chair Takla and Commissioner Kula
- Councilmember Sadalge – meeting with Commissioners Ng and Brown
- Councilmember Diaz – meeting with Vice Chair Takla and Commissioner Hoppe
- Councilmember Bushnell – meeting with Commissioner Olsen

There are some additional Council Coffees occurring in August.

**c. Tacoma Arts Month & AMOCAT Check-In (51:58)**

Staff shared updates regarding the Tacoma Arts Month budget and how budget cuts would be applied in 2025.

Staff shared an overview of Tacoma Arts Month events:

- September 30 – proclamation of Tacoma Arts Month and AMOCAT Arts Awards at City Council
- October 4 – Kaleidoscope, 1-4 pm at Main Library with Tacoma Creates and arts programming
- October 11 & 12 – Tacoma Studio Tour
- November 15 & 16 – Arts at the Armory

Applications for the Tacoma Studio Tour and Arts at the Armory will launch soon. Staff provided an overview of the AMOCAT Arts Awards format. Nominations for AMOCAT Arts Awards will launch soon. Commissioners signed up to serve on Tacoma Arts Month review subcommittees.

Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

**d. Poet/Literary Laureate Subcommittee (01:18:00)**

Staff introduced the potential to form a subcommittee that could start meeting in the fall to review any possible changes to the Tacoma Poet Laureate program for future cycles. Commissioners discussed. Establishing a subcommittee will be added as an Action Item on the August agenda.

**e. JEDIS Subcommittee (01:29:02)**

Commissioner Takla provided information regarding the JEDIS Subcommittee and how the JEDIS committee work can be utilized in other planning subcommittees.

**6. Staff Check-In (01:30:08)**

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

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Youth seats on City's Committees, Boards, and Commissions – Commissioners Ng and Chang are interested in participating in these conversations
- City leadership updates
- Budget updates
- TAIP contracting is moving forward
- Pride crosswalk installation
- Parks Tacoma public art projects: Sheridan/Wapato parks, PARC: Lincoln Heights Park, PARC: South Park, PARC: Lincoln Park
- Tacoma Dome public art project
- Oakland School Mural

- McKinley Overlook public art project
- Tacoma Creates funding, reauthorization, and staff position recruitment

## 7. Report Back

(01:47:30)

### 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:

- Lakewood Arts Commission seat opening
- Hades Town (teen version) at Museum of Glass
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

### c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

## 8. Adjourn

6:56 pm (01:51:21)

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## 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.



To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Tacoma Arts Commission staff at (253) 591-5191. TTY or speech to speech users please dial (253) 581-5820 to connect with Washington Relay Services.

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