

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
Jamika Scott, 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: February 12, 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
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jes Takla
Joe Williams
Ton Williams
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

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

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Jeanette Sanchez

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.

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiif puyaləpabš dxwəstəłiils 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 (01:10)

Commissioner Sanchez had an excused absence.

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

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

Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Seconded: Vice Chair Brown

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (03:57)

Chair Shakoor shared that Jamika Scott is the new City Council Liaison for the Tacoma Arts Commission. She also acknowledged that February is Black History Month and thanked African American ancestors for work they have done to develop a framework for civil rights.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (05:06)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Action Items

a. Larchmont Concrete Stamps Final Design (06:05)

Staff gave an update about the Larchmont Concrete Stamp public art project that Saiyare Refaei has been developing. Staff shared the 17 design drawings as well as a mock-up of how the pieces would look along the street.

Staff shared an overview of the proposed approach for sharing the project digitally via Storymaps, with particular focus on accessibility. The proposal includes ability for viewers to use a screen reader, inclusion of alt text for images, video and audio clips, and Spanish translation across the platform. Staff also discussed approaches for sharing out the project through local partners.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I move to accept the Larchmont Concrete Stamps final."

Motion: Commissioner Behe

Second: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Motion: Carried

b. Environmental Services Artist in Residence Artist Selection (32:05)

Staff shared that Teruko Nimura was selected by a community panel for the Environmental Services Artist in Residence opportunity. Staff shared samples of Teruko's past work including her community engagement work. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares shared some reflections on what the panel appreciated about Teruko's work and skill set.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: “I move that we accept the recommendation of the resident art selection for Environmental Services.”

Motion: Commissioner Kula

Second: Vice Chair Brown

Motion: Carried

6. Discussion/Updates

a. Division Manager Recruitment (39:30)

Commissioner Joe Williams shared about the recruitment process for the Division Manager of Arts & Cultural Vitality. Nine semi-finalists were selected from the original applicant pool and two finalists are moving on to final interviews where they will give a presentation and answer questions. A limited number of Commissioners who RSVP will have an opportunity to attend the next round of interviews and provide feedback about the two candidates.

b. Subcommittees and Sign-Ups (44:35)

Staff gave an overview of each subcommittee and their relationship to the Commission.

- **AMOCAT Arts Awards Subcommittee**

This is a short-term subcommittee that will review and make recommendations about the current awards, structure, review process, and public award event. Commissioners Neal, Takla, and Fernandez-Llamazares volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

- **Tacoma Arts Month Subcommittee**

This is a short-term subcommittee that will help shape Tacoma Arts Month programming. Staff will collect volunteers for this subcommittee later in the year.

- **Funding Subcommittee**

This is a short-term subcommittee that will look at the Commission’s current funding programs, funding distribution levels, and consider updates for 2025-26 funding cycle. Vice Chair Brown and Commissioners Joe Williams and Kula volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

- **Public Art Subcommittee**

This is a short-term subcommittee that will be working on the public art work plan. Vice Chair Brown and Commissioners Behe and Hoppe volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

- **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Subcommittee**

This is an ongoing Commissioner-led subcommittee that looks at how to support the needs of the cultural community through a DEI lens. Work includes discussions as well as application to real Commission projects and programs. Chair Shakoor, Vice Chair Brown, and Commissioners Takla, Kula, Gilmore, Neal, and Wygle volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

c. Council Coffee – Overview, Goals, Approaches (58:40)

Chair Shakoor shared about her experience doing Council Coffee meetings last year. Staff gave an overview of the City Council districts and what districts each City Council member represents. Staff gave an overview of the purpose of the meetings, how to sign up for the meetings, the meeting format, and the support documents including an outline of talking points and the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division’s annual report. Commissioners shared out about their past experiences and tips for Council Coffee meetings.

7. Staff Check-In

(1:10:03)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- The Commission's first retreat session will be on April 7, 2 – 4 pm
- Programming is underway for Community Arts Projects funding
- The Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding cohort met in January. Commissioner Dean shared about her experience attending the session
- The 2023 Annual Report for Arts & Cultural Vitality is in the works
- The traffic box art wrap social media campaign wrapped up
- A professional development workshop series is being developed in response to feedback from the community
- Wrapped up taping of three segments for artTown TV show

b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Nofo Porter was selected for the South Tacoma Way & Union Avenue mural
- Students at Stewart Middle School will be helping select the artist for the Stewart Safe Routes to School project
- Public Works Artist in Residence opportunity closed and the panel will start review of applications
- Tiffany Hammonds is working with First Creek Middle School students through the Club B program to create a mural for the Eastside Community Center
- Contracting with Tacoma Public Schools to do a public art project with Oakland High School
- Environmental Services' 'If it hits the ground, it hits the sound' campaign, which included public art components, won a national award

c. Tacoma Creates

Staff gave an overview of the 2024-2025 Tacoma Creates funding cycle; Tacoma Creates Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support applications are due in March. Funding application workshops are being held.

State partners are looking to Tacoma as an example of how to roll out Cultural Access funding at the local level. The Tacoma Creates initiative will need to be reauthorized and work is being done with City Council to prepare for this.

8. Report Back

(01:28:54)

a. Advocacy Reports

University of Washington Tacoma is in the final stages of proposing a new arts major.

Reminder to submit ballots by Tuesday.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

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

- Museum of Glass' A Two-Way Mirror exhibit
- Tacoma Community College's Black Artists exhibition

- One Table Show premier
- Grand Cinema’s curated Black film series
- Grand Cinema’s capital fundraising campaign
- Grand Cinema’s projectionist position
- Tiny art gallery exhibit of Commission Hoppe’s work and Chair Shakoor’s work coming up

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

9. Adjourn

6:47 pm (01:41:56)

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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