

Members

Mike Sweney, *Chair*
Rachel Cardwell, *Vice Chair*
Marty Campbell, *City Council Liaison*
Keith Blocker, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
Scott Campbell
Heather Conklin
Quincy Henry
Kareem Kandi
Traci Kelly
Johnaye Kendrick
Halley Knigge
Michael Kula
Donald Lacky
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 Assistant*

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

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

Date: February 13, 2017

Location: 728 St. Helens, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Mike Sweney, Chair
Rachel Cardwell, Vice Chair
Marty Campbell, City Council Liaison
Scott Campbell
Heather Conklin
Kareem Kandi
Johnaye Kendrick
Halley Knigge
Michael Kula
Donald Lacky
Liesl Santkuyl
Wanda Thompson
Paul Throne
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Staff Present:

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist
Asia Tail, Arts Program Assistant
Martha Anderson, Assistant Director, CEDD

Guest:

Shari Barrera
Monique Smith
Martha Lantz

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Traci Kelly

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Quincy Henry

1. Call to Order

5:04 pm (00:40) Chair Sweney

2. Consent Agenda

5:04 pm (00:50) Chair Sweney

Commissioner Kelly had an excused absence.



Chair Sweney asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda, as well as minutes from the January meeting.

There was a motion: “I so move.”

Motion: Wanda Thompson

Second: Halley Knigge

Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report

5:05 pm (01:30) Chair Sweney

Chair Sweney shared some articles on the potential de-funding of the National Endowment for the Arts under the current federal administration, and suggested the commission discuss it further at the March retreat. He also mentioned attending Arts Day which happened last week in Olympia, and that Dale Chihuly officially gifted the glass artworks hanging in Union Station to the federal government and they will now be permanently sited in that space.

4. Presentations

A. Tacoma Arts Commission Primer

5:10 pm (06:10)

Deputy City Attorney, Martha Lantz, presented on the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, the Open Records Act, and the City’s Code of Ethics. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

5. Discussion/Updates

A. Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee Update

5:51 pm (47:00)

The Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee, which includes Chair Sweney and Commissioners Throne, Thompson, and Wilmot-Stenehjem, shared their proposed statement affirming the Tacoma Arts Commission’s dedication to equity. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: “I move we adopt the statement.”

Motion: Scott Campbell

Second: Heather Conklin

Motion: Carried

B. 2016 Year in Review

6:01 pm (57:00)

Staff presented a draft of the 2016 Year in Review. Commissioners discussed and made suggestions for this year’s and next year’s report.

C. Council Coffee Sign-Ups

6:11 pm (01:07:25)

Staff and Chair Sweney explained the process and purpose of meeting with Tacoma City Councilmembers to advocate for the needs of the Commission. Meetings will be scheduled after the March retreat. Commissioners signed up for meeting slots as follows:

Michael Kula (Robert Thoms); Rachel Cardwell and Halley Knigge (Anders Ibsen); Rachel Cardwell and Johnaye Kendrick (Marty Campbell); Mike Sweney, Liesl Santkuyl, and Halley Knigge (Keith Blocker); Mike Sweney and Scott Campbell (Lauren Walker); Wanda Thompson (Conor McCarthy); Paul Throne (Ryan Mello); Mike Sweney, Rachel Cardwell, and Wanda Thompson (Mayor Marilyn Strickland)



D. Arts Commission Annual Retreat**6:16 pm (01:12:30)**

The annual Commission retreat will be March 18th, from 10 am - 3 pm, at the YMCA Association Office at 4701 South 19th Street. Staff reviewed proposed topics to cover at the retreat including: a diversity ice breaker led by Commissioner Thompson; an overview of current projects; discussions of advocacy, including National Endowment for the Arts updates, Council Coffees meetings, and upcoming changes in City leadership; and develop a work plan and measurements for ArtFull Tacoma.

6. Staff Check-In**A. Staff Projects Overview and Updates****6:20 pm (01:16:51)**

The Civil Service Board appointed Rebecca Solverson as an official full-time employee beginning this month. Amy McBride presented on using the arts as a civic engagement tool at the Innovation Lab in Bellevue, and sat on an Artist Trust selection panel. Staff are managing Sound Transit's Link Light rail project and an artist will be selected soon. Staff is also looking at updating the City's Percent for Art policy to make sure it is working at full capacity. Commissioners can volunteer to serve on a subcommittee that will review that policy.

The Tacoma Artists Initiative Program received 43 applications, and Anchor Fund received 10 applications. The panels for both programs will be held in March and the Commission will review and vote on funding recommendations at the next meeting. Early returns from the Arts and Economic Prosperity 5 surveys are promising. The People's Community Center portable artworks purchase review process will begin on February 17. The oral histories project for the Center will begin soon and is being led by Whitney Brady and Tiffany Hammonds.

B. Public Art Updates**6:31 pm (01:27:40)**

Staff informed commissioners about the current call for a glass artist to create a work for Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. Applications are due March 6. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

Rebecca Solverson attended the 2017 Northwest Public Art Administrators Consortium in Portland, and shared some takeaways from this year's event.

7. Report Back**A. Advocacy Reports****6:40 pm (01:36:30)**

There were no reports.

B. Arts Events Attended**6:40 pm (01:36:50)**

Commissioners shared arts events that they attended or have been involved with including: Tacoma Little Theater's production of Never Again, Tacoma Art Museum and Museum of Glass events, Asia Pacific Cultural Center's New Year Festival, Puget Sound Poetry Connection, activities in the Lincoln District, and UWT's Elliot, a Soldier's Fugue. Commissioners and a guest also shared some upcoming art events including: Poetry Out Loud State Finals on March 4, the Tacoma Jazz Walk on March 4, Lettuce live artmaking events the last Fridays of every month, and several music events at local high schools.



C. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

6:53 pm (01:49:45)

There were no items noted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm

