

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
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: December 9, 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
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila
Lisa Jaret

Guest Presenters:

Councilmember Jamika Scott

1. Call to Order

5:11 pm (00:05)

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

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatx'ix'wtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxwəsłəłlils g'wəl 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 Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the December 9 meeting as well as the minutes from the November 18 meeting.

There was a motion: "I move that we approve the consent agenda and last meeting's minutes."

Motion: Commissioner Gilmore

Seconded: Commissioner Takla

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:00)

Vice Chair Brown recognized Commissioner Neal, whose term of service on the Commission is ending. Commissioner Neal spoke about his experience serving on the Commission.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (06:58)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Council Liaison Check-In (08:02)

Councilmember Jamika Scott shared about the following items:

- Tacoma Arts Month programming she coordinated with families at Tacoma Rescue Mission
- Updates about the City's 2025-2026 biennial budget, including an amendment to add more money for traffic box art wraps, advocacy for using the arts as economic driver, and upcoming budget cuts which will include personnel cuts to try and make the budget sustainable
- Council's legislative priorities for 2025
- Tacoma Creates reauthorization and code changes

Commissioners asked questions.

6. Action Items

a. 2025 Community Arts Projects Funding Recommendations (23:15)

Staff shared an overview of the 2025 Community Arts Projects funding application review process. There were seven panelists including Commissioner Hoppe and Sanchez, Erica Chang, Ean Olsen, Jess Coen, Grace Washington, and Samantha Biasca. Fifty-four eligible applications were received with a total request of \$459,000. The panel recommended distribution of \$148,000 to 21 applicants. Staff shared the panel's recommendation on screen.

Commissioners Hoppe and Sanchez spoke about the perspective of panelists, evaluation criteria, and areas that the panel discussed. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

Funding recommendations are:

Organization	Project Title	Recommended
350 Tacoma	Dreaming for Our Descendants: Art Medicine for Catastrophic Times	\$0
All Star Vintage (DBA Por Vida NW)	Lincoln District Food Walk	\$9,000
ArtCity Collaborative	ArtCity: Tacoma Mapping Project	\$6,000
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	27th Annual Asia Pacific New Year Celebration featuring India	\$9,000
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	From Scratch: Tasting the Tenderness in Food Production	\$6,000
Barefoot Collective	Dancing in the Park 2025	\$0
Black Night Market LLC	Black Night Market Events: Holidays, Poetry After Dark, Art Soiree	\$9,000
Black Women's Association (BWA)	Motown Musical Performance Featuring One Night With A King	\$0
Blue Cactus Press	The Politicized Practitioner: An Essential Reader for Mental Health Practitioners	\$0
BYTM (Building Youth Through Music) DBA WayOut Kids	Juneteenth Celebration: A Road to Economic Freedom Festival	\$9,000
Caribbean Queens	Caribbean Queens Fest 2025	\$6,000
Central Neighborhood Council	Tacoma Porchfest	\$0
Chayah Movement	Threads of Freedom - A Juneteenth Celebration	\$0
Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation	2025 Tacoma Moon Festival	\$9,000
Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma	Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma: 2025	\$0
Collective Liberation in Practice LLC	Free in Movement: Embodied Expressions	\$0
Das Biest Performance Project	Movement Workshops	\$0
First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tacoma	Listen Live at Lunch	\$0
Foss Waterway Seaport	Tacoma Salmon in the Classroom- Salmon Art Project	\$6,000
Greentrike	Sparks at Children's Museum of Tacoma	\$6,000
Hilltop Artists in Residence	Hilltop Artists Monkeyshines Project	\$9,000
Imperio Tattoos LLC	Imperio Arte Magazine	\$0
johnygirl sound therapy & healing arts studio	Monthly Community Sound Baths w/ johnygirl sound therapy	\$0
Kami Creates LLC	Windows of Hope	\$0
Kathleen McHugh Studio 612	Community Mosaic For TACID	\$0
Kingspen LLC	Kingspen 88 Art Show and Festival	\$0
Krownless Kings	2nd Annual "The Kickback" 2025	\$0
Lincoln International Business Association	Lincoln District Lunar New Year Festival	\$9,000
Making A Difference Foundation	For Those Who Paved the Way	\$0
Mattice Beauty Supply, LLC	Art and Craft Activities at Mattice Beauty Supply	\$6,000

Museum of Glass	Glass Fest Northwest	\$9,000
Music and Heart in Wright Park	Music & Heart in Wright Park	\$0
Northwest Sinfonietta	Carnival Family Concert	\$0
Rob Young Productions	Said By The Father And Son	\$3,000
Sister Cities Council of Tacoma-Pierce County d.b.a. Tacoma Sister Cities	Coming of Age Around the World: TSC Annual Film Festival	\$0
South End Neighborhood Council	SEnCo (Creates) 2025 Community Art Projects	\$0
Studio Junio	Thrift City Revival	\$0
Sui Productions	Together We Grow	\$0
Tacoma Art Museum	Dia de los Muertos Festival	\$6,000
Tacoma Community College	TCC Third Annual Black Art Black Artists Exhibition	\$0
Tacoma Fun Parade dba Tacoma HONK! Fest	Tacoma HONK! Fest	\$0
Tacoma Light Trail	Tacoma Light Trail 2025	\$0
Tacoma Opera Association	Tacoma Opera Youth Initiative	\$0
Tacoma Refugee Choir	Let There Be Peace on Earth Concert	\$4,000
Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center	The Secret Garden, A Ballet	\$3,000
Tacoma Youth Symphony Association	Ukulele Cultural Celebration	\$0
Ted Brown Music Outreach	Live It OutLoud	\$0
The Method Skateboards & Coffee LLC	The Method Roast Ride 2025	\$0
The Painting Panda Pottery Studio L.L.C.	Kai's Room Collaborative Art Installation - Energize Tacoma	\$9,000
The Paloma Project	The Paloma Project Artisan Cohort 2025.	\$0
Toolbox Learning Laboratories	Crafter school: arts with Toolbox Learning Laboratories	\$0
University of Washington Tacoma	Sexual Healing: A Queer-Affirming Sex Ed Do Over	\$6,000
Washington State Historical Society	IN THE SPIRIT Arts Market & Northwest Native Festival	\$9,000
Write253	Tacoma Wayzgoose: Letterpress and Book Arts Celebration	\$0

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the recommendations for Community Arts Projects funding.

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Seconded: Commissioner Gilmore

Motion: Carried

Staff will send out funding notifications to all applicants and will provide an option for constructive feedback, if applicants request it.

b. 2025-27 Tacoma Poet Laureate Guidelines

(42:21)

Staff provided an overview of updates made to the 2025-27 Tacoma Poet Laureate guidelines including an increase in the position stipend to \$6,000 plus an additional project budget of \$1,000, adding in language to underscore the equity component of the position, and adding in the requirement for participation in two City events each year as part of the duties.

Commissioners and staff discussed the guidelines including how to further open the application up to different literary genres and the potential for expanding the position to a literary laureate. Commissioner Kula suggested removing the word “additional” from the sentence that says, “Writers who work in additional genres intersecting with poetry are also welcome to apply.”

There was a motion: “What I would like to propose as a motion is that we only strike the word ‘additional’ in that sentence as we’re approving this round. We keep the name Poet Laureate.”

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Kula

There was discussion. Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to accept the 2025-2027 Tacoma Poet Laureate guidelines with the removal of the word ‘additional’

Motion: Carried (with one Nay)

7. Discussion/Updates

a. JEDI Subcommittee Update

(01:03:50)

Commissioner Gilmore invited Commissioners to review a draft document they have started to integrate JEDI work into ongoing work of the Commission. Commissioners who are interested in collaborating on this were invited to join the next JEDI Subcommittee meeting on December 13.

b. Arts at the Armory Recap

(01:07:28)

Staff shared an overview of the Art at the Armory event including hosting over 2,600 attendees over two days, increased marketing, the addition of an artist reception for participating artists and a pop-up gallery, and feedback collected from artists. Commissioners shared their reflections on the event.

8. Staff Check-In

(01:16:31)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Arts & Cultural Vitality Division will be looking at cuts for the 2025-26 biennial budget. Council will vote on the budget in December and staff will learn more about specific budget cuts in January
- Wrapping up 2024 Community Arts Projects and 2023-24 TAIP funded projects
- Applications for 2025-26 TAIP funding are available and due January 27, 2025
- The Economic Development Committee of City Council recommended the reappointment of Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares to her seat on the Commission; they also recommended appointment of Erica Chang and Vernon Ng and will recommend appointment of one additional person.

b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Ongoing maintenance of public art pieces
- Two temporary projects are on view in the McKinley neighborhood as part of the public art training program that Spaceworks is leading.

c. Tacoma Creates

Staff shared an overview of the Tacoma Creates annual report, which covers July 2023 through June 2024. Over \$5.8 million was distributed to 65 cultural organizations, over 1,200 cultural programs and events were produced, and a majority of programming was free. Funding supported 114 free workshops at Tacoma Public Library branches and bus transportation for cultural field trips for Tacoma Public Schools. One hundred percent of Tacoma Public Schools had a programming connection with at least one Tacoma Creates organization.

City Council is expected to consider Tacoma Creates reauthorization in January and February. A community survey is currently available to provide input on the impact of Tacoma Creates funding.

9. Report Back

(01:30:20)

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:

- Arts at the Armory
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

10. Community Comment

(01:33:45)

There were no items.

11. Adjourn

6:44 pm (01:34:06)

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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