



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

September 11, 2018

10:00 AM

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Chair Conor McCarthy, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka, Lillian Hunter,  
Victoria Woodards, Chris Beale (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Present:** 4 - Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka and Woodards

Council Member Hunter participated telephonically.

## Approval of Minutes

1. [18-1006](#) Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2018 meeting
2. [18-1007](#) Approval of the minutes of the August 28, 2018 meeting

**MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to approve the minutes of the August 14, and August 28, 2018 meetings.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.**

**Ayes:** 4 - Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka and Woodards

## Briefing Items

3. [18-1008](#) Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality and Tacoma Arts Month Update  
[Amy McBride, Arts Administrator, Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality]

At approximately 10:00 a.m., Amy McBride, Arts Administrator, Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality, made opening remarks and provided an update on

the activities and strategies being implemented by the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality and Tacoma Arts Commission. Ms. McBride then reviewed Strategy 1: grow and sustain the creative community, which included economic impact of the non-profit arts and culture organizations and their audiences.

Discussion ensued regarding industry expenditures and revenue.

Mike Sweney, Chair, Tacoma Arts Commission, and Ms. McBride provided information on this year's 17th Annual Arts Month and events, including kaleidoscope opening party; outreach; and sponsors. Ms. McBride then reviewed creative space development to provide local artists places to live or perform, including Alma Mater, McKinley Artist Lofts, and Birdloft Studio; and other areas to build.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of Alma Mater, who is eligible to reside at McKinley Artist Loft, and the Loft's opening date.

Ms. McBride presented information on Strategy 2: promote equity, diversity, and inclusiveness through the arts; and described the demographics of artists participating in this year's Arts Month program. Strategy 2 also involved community/civic engagement and social actions, including the City's Lincoln Neighborhood Revitalization Project, and described the two key artists, Roni Chelben and Susan Robb, and their work and events involved. She stated the City is working with Metro Parks on various projects to provide trainings to the public.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach to mature, experienced artists.

Mr. Sweney presented information on Strategy 3: use public art to create active, accessible, and welcoming public places, including public art distribution in Tacoma.

Discussion ensued regarding Tacoma Public Schools.

Ms. McBride then presented information on Strategy 4: strengthening Tacoma's creative ecosystem, including partnership and public art project management and Tacoma Creates initiative. She concluded by presenting information on Strategy 5: optimize performance and capacity of arts programming, services, and operations.

Discussion ensued regarding the current location of the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality, placement of arts in the Office of the City Council, economic impact and benefits, the need for improving Tacoma Dome exterior, the need for creating more public spaces and placing artwork of

Dale Chihuly in Tacoma, and more spaces for the film industry.

4. [18-1009](#)

Spaceworks Update

[Amy McBride, Arts Administrator, Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality]

At approximately 10:45 a.m., Ms. McBride made opening remarks; introduced David Schroedel, Vice President of Policy and Entrepreneurship, Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, and Michael Liang, Program Director, Spaceworks; and provided an update on the activities and strategies being implemented by Spaceworks Tacoma, including background, mission statement, the team, and programs they offer.

Mr. Liang and Mr. Schroedel continued describing programs, including incubator, noting the fund and number of employees, and the stocklist and the goods; statistics on supported businesses; artscape, including streetside and 950 Gallery; coworking, noting spaces located on Pacific Avenue and Hilltop; and special projects, noting the Tacoma Theater District Culture and Transportation Plan, streetscape redesign, and community feedback. Mr. Liang concluded by providing information on how to get involved and impact on the community.

Discussion ensued regarding entrepreneur success workshops, age diversity, outreach, and opportunities in downtown Tacoma.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [18-1010](#)

September 25, 2018 - Tacoma's Community Trauma Program

Chair McCarthy stated the next meeting will be on September 25, 2018, and will include a presentation on the Tacoma's Community Trauma Program.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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Conor McCarthy, Chair

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Sola Wingenbach, City Clerk's Office