

**Members**

Heather Conklin, Chair  
Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair  
John Hines, City Council Liaison  
Keith Blocker, City Council Liaison Alternate  
Olivia Allison  
Michelle Douglas  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Anna Holcomb  
Paula Jacobson  
Michael Kula  
Benjamin Maestas III  
Elizabeth Pew  
James Stowe  
MaryMikel Stump  
Wanda Thompson  
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem  
Sarah Woodson

**Staff**

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist  
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality  
Tacoma Venues and Events Department



**Date: December 14, 2020**

**Time: 5:00 pm**

**Location: Virtual**

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at [www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes).

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Heather Conklin, Chair  
Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair  
Olivia Allison  
Michelle Douglas  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Anna Holcomb  
Michael Kula  
Benjamin Maestas III  
Elizabeth Pew  
MaryMikel Stump  
Wanda Thompson  
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem  
Sarah Woodson

*City Staff Present:*

Amy McBride  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Chevi Chung  
Rebecca Solverson  
Lisa Jaret  
Tammi Bryant  
Kim Bedier

*Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Paula Jacobson  
James Stowe

**1. Call to Order**

**5:05 pm (00:00)**

Chair Conklin called the meeting to order. Chair Conklin 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 dxwəsłəłlils 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**

**(00:28)**

There were no excused absences.

Vice Chair Ayala asked for a motion to approve the December agenda as well as the minutes from the November meeting.

There was a motion: "I so move."

Motion: Commissioner Thompson

Seconded: Commissioner Woodson

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (01:07)**

Chair Conklin provided an update on the public comment process for Commission meetings. Recognition of Commissioners Douglas, Jacobson, Thompson, and Wilmot-Stenehjem's service by Commissioners and Staff.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (09:29)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Discussion/Updates**

**a. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Subcommittee (12:47)**

Commissioner Maestas gave an update on the work of the DEI Subcommittee including reviewing TAIP guidelines and developing a consistency on the prioritization language on all calls and outreach. This subcommittee would like to work on goals and an equity-inclusion statement. Next step is drafting up Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) goals and an organizational network to prioritize and take action on.

**6. Action Items**

**a. 2021-23 Tacoma Poet Laureate Application (20:38)**

Staff reviewed the proposed updates of the 2021-23 Tacoma Poet Laureate Application including Additional Project Budget, Opportunity, Duties, Priorities, and Selection Criteria sections of the guidelines. Commissioners discussed, asked questions, and proposed edits.

There was a motion: "I move to accept the 2021-23 Tacoma Poet Laureate Application as it was presented."

Motion: Chair Conklin

Second: Commissioner Kula

Motion: Carried

**b. 2021 Community Arts Projects Funding Recommendations (43:32)**

Staff gave an overview about the Community Arts Projects Funding panel's virtual review of the 2021 applications. Vice Chair Ayala and Commissioner Allison gave an update about the funding panel. The following funding recommendations were proposed:

Organization	Project Title	Recommended
Alma Mater Tacoma	The Bridge Music Project	\$ -
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	23rd Annual Asia Pacific New Year Celebration featuring Marshall Islands	\$ 6,000.00
Barefoot Collective	Behind the Camera - Community Dance in a Global Pandemic	\$ 3,000.00
Blue Cactus Press	Creative Writing Anthology by Women of Color	\$ 3,000.00
Building Youth Through Music dba WayOut Kids	Steam Gone Digital	\$ 6,000.00

Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation	Tacoma Moon Festival	\$	3,000.00
Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma	Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma Musical Events	\$	-
Creative Colloquy	The Writer's Workshop Series	\$	-
Destiny City Film Festival	2021 Destiny City Film Festival	\$	-
Destiny City Music Collective	Tacoma Community Multimedia Video Project	\$	-
Greentrike	Greentrike Cares	\$	6,000.00
Hilltop Artists in Residence	Hilltop Artists Monkeyshines Project	\$	6,000.00
Integrity	Grassroots on the Ground; An Entrepreneur Tribute to Black Wall Street	\$	6,000.00
King's Bookstore LLC	Traveling Tacoma Wayzgoose: Letterpress and Book Arts Exhibition	\$	-
Latinx Unidos of the South Sound	Festival Latinx 2021	\$	6,000.00
Local Uplift, LLC	Modern Womxn 2021: An Exploration (Art exhibit + workshop)	\$	3,000.00
McKinley Hill Street Fair	McKinley Hill Street Fair	\$	3,000.00
Metropolitan Glass Inc	The Monkeyshines Project	\$	3,000.00
Museum of Glass	Field Trip Friday's: Free Admission for Bi-Poc Families	\$	-
ND Fashion & Art Boutique, LLC	Arts, Psychology, and Wellness: Overcoming Food Dysfunctions	\$	3,000.00
Northwest Repertory Singers	Northwest Repertory Singers	\$	-
Northwest Sinfonietta	Attuned: a concert collaboration celebrating African American composers	\$	3,000.00
Pierce County AIDS Foundation	Pandemic vs Pandemic: World AIDS Day 2021	\$	3,000.00
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	Community Education for the Twulshootseed Language	\$	6,000.00
Queer Life	My AIDS Campaign, Tacoma Edition	\$	-
Refugee Choir Project	Tacoma Refugee Choir Drive-in Concert + Singalong	\$	6,000.00
Sister Cities Council of Tacoma-Pierce County d.b.a. Tacoma Sister Cities	Tacoma Sister Cities Film & Performance Festival	\$	3,000.00
Supportive Housing Association	2021 Summer Film Camp	\$	6,000.00
Tacoma Ocean Fest	Tacoma Ocean Fest 2021	\$	3,000.00
Tacoma Tree Foundation	Nature Explorers Zine	\$	3,000.00
Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center	Noir Black Noir	\$	6,000.00
Tacoma Youth Symphony Association	Season Finales: 2020-2021	\$	-
Ted Brown Music Outreach	Live It OutLoud 2021	\$	-
The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra	Middle East Meets West	\$	3,000.00
The Strong Experience	The Strong Experience: Art Series	\$	-
Trio Guadalevin	Latinos in Washington: A Song Cycle (Working Title) "The Book of Andy", a comedic four-part theatrical mini series	\$	6,000.00
University of Washington		\$	3,000.00
Washington State Historical Society	In the Spirit 2021	\$	-
Write253	Crossing the Street	\$	3,000.00
YWCA Pierce County	Public Mural for Home at Last	\$	3,000.00

There was a motion: "I move to accept the 2021 Community Arts Projects Funding Recommendations."  
Motion: Chair Conklin

Second: Commissioner Holcomb

Motion: Carried

## 7. Discussion/Updates

### a. 2021-22 Funding Distribution Update (58:34)

Staff gave an update that City Council passed the 2021-2022 biennial budget, which will allow for \$300,000 in funding to redistribute. This will allow for \$228,000 in Community Arts Projects funding and \$72,000 in Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding for the biennium.

### b. Tacoma Arts Month Recap (1:00:06)

Staff gave an update about Tacoma Arts Month 2020 including Community Engagement Projects, events, activities, sponsorships, partnerships, TV Tacoma's CityLine and social media outreach. Commissioners discussed in-person and virtual programming. Community Engagement Project survey results will be shared at the next meeting.

## 8. Staff Check-In

### a. Tacoma Creates (1:23:28)

Staff gave an update about 2021 funding applications, outreach to new organizations, and the launch of the first newsletter.

### b. Staff Projects Overview and Updates (1:25:09)

Staff gave an update about the end of the current funding cycle and how the Tacoma Artists Initiative Program and Community Arts Projects fundees are completing their projects by the end of 2020. Several staff attended the Grantmakers in the Arts virtual conference. The Tacoma Artists Initiative Program application workshop is next week and the panelists are confirmed to review applications in early 2021. City Council reappointed Chair Conklin and Vice Chair Ayala and appointed new Commissioners: Jasmine Brown, Jeanette Sanchez, Jamika Scott, and Alejandra Villeda to the Arts Commission for 2021.

### c. Public Art Updates (1:32:36)

Staff gave an update about the Public Art Reaching Community (PARC) temporary public art and a reminder about the upcoming virtual celebration on January 13. Staff gave an update about permanent artwork for Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) and the Port of Tacoma's piece in Fireman's Park. Staff reported on mural vandalism impacting Spaceworks murals, addressing maintenance, and communicating with Tacoma Police Department.

## 9. Report Back

### a. Advocacy Reports (1:53:19)

There were no advocacy reports.

### b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended (1:53:25)

Chair Conklin attended Elizabeth Reeves' virtual event for The Call and attended a Tacoma Urban League event.

### c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration (1:56:40)

There were no future agenda items for consideration.

## 10. Adjourn

7:02 pm (1:57:07)

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## MEETING FREQUENCY

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm, venue to be determined based on health regulations. 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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