

Members

Rosie Ayala, Chair
Benjamin Maestas III, Vice Chair
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Keith Blocker, City Council Liaison Alternate
Olivia Allison
Jasmine Brown
Heather Conklin
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Anna Holcomb
Michael Kula
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Jamika Scott
James Stowe
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
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: March 8, 2021

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.



Commission Members in Attendance:

Rosie Ayala, Chair
Benjamin Maestas III, Vice Chair
Jasmine Brown
Heather Conklin
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Michael Kula
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Jamika Scott
Alejandra Villeda
Sarah Woodson

City Staff Present:

Amy McBride
Chevi Chung
Naomi Strom-Avila
Lisa Jaret
Kim Bedier
Hillary Brenner
Tammi Bryant

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Olivia Allison
Anna Holcomb
MaryMikel Stump
James Stowe

1. Call to Order

5:06 pm (00:11)

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

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłils 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

(00:51)

There were four excused absences: Commissioners Holcomb, Allison, Stump, and Stowe.

Vice Chair Maestas asked for a motion to approve the March agenda as well as the minutes from the February 8 meeting.

There was a motion: "I so move."

Motion: Commissioner Woodson

Seconded: Commissioner Conklin

Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report/Housekeeping

(02:05)

Chair Ayala had no items. Staff reminded the Commission about cards for fellow Commission members that are available for signing.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

(02:56)

Andrew Strobel, Haida Tribe and Puyallup Tribe Planning Director, provided public comments on the Tacoma Totem Pole Deaccession Recommendation agenda item.

Don Lacky, community member, provided public comments on the Tacoma Totem Pole Deaccession Recommendation agenda item.

Catherine Edwards, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Tribal Council Member, provided public comments on the Tacoma Totem Pole Deaccession Recommendation agenda item.

5. Action Items

a. 2021-22 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program Funding Recommendations

(13:30)

The 2021-2022 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program review panel’s funding recommendations were presented to the Commission. The panel recommended the funding for the following 24 applicants at \$3,000 each for a total of \$72,000:

Artist Name
Curtis Ashby
Marit Berg
Katie Dean
Priscilla Dobler
Lance Griffith
Maria Jost
Kareem Kandi
Rian Kelly
Eugene (Gene) Kemper
Ricardo Lastrapes
David Long
Miriam McBride
Adrian Milanio
Mark Monlux
Gloria Muhammad
Tamiko Nimura

Chandler O'Leary
Gerardo Peña
Kellie Richardson
Mauricio Robalino
Suzanne Skaar
Cydney Stephens
Jacob Sunday
Charles (Chuck) Taylor

A total of 40 applications were received. Multiple disciplines and all 5 council districts are represented in the selections. Commissioners Maestas and Villeda spoke about their experience on the panel. Commissioners discussed and asked questions. Chair Ayala called for a motion to accept the funding recommendations as presented.

There was a motion: "I move that we approve the subcommittee's recommendations."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Second: Commissioner Conklin

Motion: Carried

b. 2021-23 Tacoma Poet Laureate Recommendation (23:45)

The Tacoma Poet Laureate selection panel recommended Lydia Valentine as the 2021-2023 Tacoma Poet Laureate with Gloria Muhammad as the Alternate. The details of the ceremony celebrating the new Poet Laureate are in progress and will be held virtually in Zoom by the end of April 2021. Commissioners Scott and Sanchez spoke about their experience on the panel.

There was a motion: "I move to move forward the recommendation of our Poet Laureate selection and alternate as determined by the subcommittee."

Motion: Chair Ayala

Second: Commissioner Woodson

Motion: Carried

c. Tacoma Totem Pole Deaccession Recommendation (33:00)

Staff gave background and an update on the Tacoma Totem Pole Deaccession panel that convened on February 25, 2021. The panel centered Indigenous voices and included: Catherine Edwards, Clinton McCloud, Andrew Strobel, Jeanette Sanchez, and Kevin Bartoy. The categories in the Deaccession policy for which this item is being considered are: Inauthentic and Aesthetic Value. Staff would like to see a new category added to the Commission's Deaccession policy around misappropriation or cultural appropriation. Staff shared about research presented by deaccession panelists Andrew Strobel and Catherine Edwards who worked with tribal consultants and confirmed the style of the Tacoma Totem Pole is not authentic or of any clan origin. The Deaccession panel unanimously recommended deaccessioning the Totem Pole from the Municipal Art Collection. Staff reported that the Totem Pole is in the Municipal Art Collection and a designated landmark and if the Arts Commission votes to deaccession the Totem Pole the next steps are to submit a request to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to delist and/or demolish the Totem Pole. Staff is currently researching options for removal. Commissioner Sanchez gave remarks about the painful discussion during the Deaccession panel and how Native voices were mourning how their art form was appropriated and that there is a call to action for correction. Commissioner Sanchez shared about the possibility of commissioning future work by

Native artists. Commissioner Sanchez reminded the Commission there are still films and postcards about the Totem Pole and how the Totem Pole is causing pain to the community.

There was a motion: "I agreed with the panel then that we move forward with its deaccession and I would present that to the committee for consideration."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Second: Commissioner Scott

Motion: Carried

d. Commission Retreat Design Subcommittee (43:55)

Chair Ayala proposed assembling a Commission Retreat Design subcommittee to come together to plan the Commission's annual retreat, which will be on Zoom.

There was a motion: "I move that the Commission institutes a short term Retreat Design Subcommittee to help us meet the needs of the Tacoma Arts Commission retreat."

Motion: Chair Ayala

Second: Commissioner Conklin

Motion: Carried

Commissioners Woodson, Conklin, Pew, and Fernandez-Llamazares volunteered for the subcommittee.

6. Discussion/Updates

a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (49:55)

Staff gave an update about the February 19 subcommittee meeting and how there was discussion around roles and how this subcommittee can provide support to the Commission. Vice Chair Maestas shared about reading the Cultural New Deal and Commissioner Sanchez shared thoughts about local organizations helping each other and the need to mentor artists. The next subcommittee meeting is on March 19.

7. Staff Check-In (55:00)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave an update about Community Arts Projects funding contracts and the Annual Report document for the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality to prepare for the City Council Coffee meetings. The Annual Report document can be used during the Council Coffee meetings. Staff asked Commissioners to sign up for Council Coffee meetings. Staff gave an update about upcoming virtual professional development later this spring from Spaceworks and Rainbow Center. Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Arts Month's website, which will be upgraded this year.

b. Public Art Updates (54:40)

Staff gave an update about the video dedication being created for the artwork at The Rise at 19th. The video includes interviews with artist Diane Hansen, Michael Mirra of Tacoma Housing Authority, and Mayor Woodards. The City's streetlight shop is gradually replacing the Bridge of Glass lighting with LEDs. Staff shared about the E 64th streetscape and the installation of public art at Dickman Mill. Four traffic signal box wraps will be installed featuring the work of Anthony Duenas, Daniel Duenas, and Chris Duenas, who are artists from the Puyallup Tribe. Staff gave an update about yard signs in Lushootseed created in partnership with the Puyallup Language School with artists Shaun Peterson, Paige Pettibon and Anthony Duenas.

c. Tacoma Creates (01:11:20)

Staff shared that Tacoma Creates funding deadlines are approaching for Comprehensive Organizational Support on March 15 and for Impact Funding on March 29. Staff reminded the Commission that Tacoma Creates funding supports Arts, Culture, Heritage and Science organizations and encouraged Commissioners to get the word out about the applications. Application workshops were facilitated by staff members Lisa Jaret and Clarissa Gines to help guide organizations through the process of applying for funding; recordings are available on the Tacoma Creates website.

8. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

(1:16:05)

There were no advocacy reports.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

(1:16:35)

Commissioner Kula attended The Book of Andy virtual theatre event co-produced by UW Tacoma Theatre, Dukesbay Productions, and Tacoma Arts Live. Commissioner Sanchez shared that Tacoma Little Theatre can be contacted for tours of their newly remodeled space. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares saw the Jacob Lawrence art show in Seattle. Commissioner Scott shared about Whipsmart and her interview with local artist Miriam McBride. Commissioner Brown shared about her work on the Billy Ray Memorial piece at the Eastside Community Center.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(1:21:30)

Chair Ayala reminded staff about future updates to the Deaccession policy around misappropriation language.

9. Adjourn

6:29 (1:23:00)

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.



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