

**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: May 10, 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](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes).

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Rosie Ayala, Chair  
Benjamin Maestas III, Vice Chair  
John Hines, City Council Liaison  
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

*City Staff Present:*

Amy McBride  
Chevi Chung  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Tammi Bryant

**1. Call to Order**

**5:04 pm (00:00)**

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.

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxwəsətəłlils 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**

**(00:43)**

There were no absences.

Vice Chair Maestas asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as well as the minutes from the April 12 meeting.

There was a motion: "I so move."

Motion: Commissioner Woodson

Seconded: Commissioner Conklin

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:08)**

Chair Ayala acknowledged Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Mexican Mother's Day, Mother's Day, and then led a check-in with Commissioners. Chair Ayala reminded the Arts Commission about the upcoming Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting on May 12 and about the Arts Commission retreat on May 22.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (10:34)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Action Items**

**a. Cancellation of July meeting (14:09)**

Chair Ayala and staff discussed cancellation of the July Arts Commission meeting.

There was a motion: "I make a motion that we vote to cancel our July Tacoma Arts Commission meeting."

Motion: Chair Ayala

Second: Commissioner Conklin

Motion: Carried

**b. Updating Municipal Art Collection Deaccession, Accession, and Gift Policies (16:34)**

Staff gave an update about the Municipal Art Program Policies specifically the Deaccession Policy, Accession Policy, Artist Eligibility and Selection Process, and Gift Policy. Staff is interested in assembling an ad-hoc sub-committee to work with the DEI sub-committee to review and approve updates to these policies.

There was a motion: "I motion that we set up a sub-committee to support the review of the Municipal Art Collection, Deaccession, Accession, and Gift Policies."

Motion: Chair Ayala

Second: Commissioner Kula

Motion: Carried

Commissioners Allison, Brown, Conklin, Fernandez-Llamazares, Holcomb, Kula, and Stump volunteered to sit on the subcommittee.

**6. Discussion/Updates**

**a. 'Council Coffee' Meeting Feedback (25:23)**

Commissioners Sanchez, Pew, and Holcomb met with Councilmember Hines and gave an update about their meeting. Commissioners Scott and Villeda gave updates about their meeting with Mayor Woodards.

Commissioner Kula and Vice Chair Maestas gave an update about their meeting with Councilmember Thoms.

Commissioner Holcomb gave an update about her meeting with Deputy Mayor Blocker. Commissioners Woodson and Brown gave an update about their meeting with Councilmember Ushka. Chair Ayala and Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares gave an update about their meeting with Councilmember Hunter.

**b. AMOCAT Arts Awards (42:32)**

Staff gave an update about the AMOCAT Arts Awards and how, for the 2021 AMOCAT Arts Awards, the Tacoma Arts Month sub-committee would like to honor community members and take a community recognition approach rather than nominating single entities for their work during 2020.

There was a motion: “I make a motion that we proceed with, for one year only, focusing on more of a community celebration instead of acknowledging individual groups of people with the AMOCAT Awards.”

Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Second: Commissioner Stowe

Motion: Carried

**c. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Subcommittee (1:02:00)**

Vice Chair Maestas gave an update about the sub-committee meeting and how Colemon & Associates will be visiting the next subcommittee meeting and leading the Tacoma Arts Commission retreat in June. Chair Ayala and Vice Chair Maestas reminded everyone to read the Cultural New Deal with the work of the Arts Commission in mind.

**7. Staff Check-In (01:33:44)**

**a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates**

Staff gave an update about the upcoming retreat sessions in May and June and the Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP). Staff gave an update about Community Arts Projects funding projects in progress and upcoming projects from Barefoot Collective and Tacoma Refugee Choir. Staff gave an update about the first set of Professional Development workshops with Rainbow Center later in May and then a new set of workshops from Spaceworks in July. Staff gave an update about Lydia K. Valentine, the 2021-2023 Tacoma Poet Laureate, and her upcoming poetry at the City of Destiny Awards on June 26. Staff gave an update on Tacoma Arts Month, the website redesign, and a potential venue for the Tacoma Studio Tour.

**b. Public Art Updates (1:45:06)**

Staff gave an update about the Lushootseed yard signs designed by artists Anthony Duenas, Paige Pettibon, and Shaun Peterson and their distribution in partnership with the Tacoma Public Library. Staff gave an update about looking at ways to collaborate with the Puyallup Tribe to create new art works. Staff gave an update about the Black Lives Matter mural collaboration with the Human Rights Commission, Tacoma Art Museum, and Tacoma Arts Commission. Staff gave an update about murals on and around Park Plaza North, one of the parking structures in downtown Tacoma, as well as the maintenance status of the Welcome Figure and conservation review of work for this year.

**c. Tacoma Creates (01:51:12)**

The Tacoma Creates Advisory Board approved the funding panel’s recommendation to distribute approximately \$3 million in funding in Comprehensive Organizational Support to 18 organizations, supporting programming happening from July 2021 – June 2022. The Impact Funding panel is currently meeting to review funding applications.

## 8. Report Back

- a. Advocacy Reports** (01:52:50)  
There were no advocacy reports.
  
- b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended** (01:53:00)  
Commissioner Allison shared about picking up her Lushootseed yard sign and attending the Small Business Owner's virtual event.
  
- c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration** (01:55:26)  
There were no items for consideration

## 9. Adjourn

7:00 (01:55:35)

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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.

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