



# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division  
Community & Economic Development Dept.

Date: April 13, 2026

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.tacoma.gov/tacomaartscommission](http://www.tacoma.gov/tacomaartscommission)

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### *Commission Members in Attendance:*

Jasmine Brown, Chair  
Jes Takla, Vice Chair  
Lindsey Dodge  
Domonique Herrin  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Vernon Ng  
Ean Olsen  
Yixuan Pan  
Elizabeth Panameno  
Janessa Post  
Jeanette Sanchez  
Sierra Suafoa-McClain

### *City Staff Present:*

Daniel Garcia  
Marissa Laubscher  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Lisa Jaret

### *Guest Presenters:*

Councilmember Jamika Scott  
Tony Gomez

### *Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Erica Chang

### *Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore

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## 1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:03)

Vice Chair Takla called the meeting to order.

ʔukʷədiitəb 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 (00:42)**

Commissioner Chang had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Takla asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the April 13 meeting as well as the minutes from the March 9 meeting.

There was a motion: "I move to approve the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from Monday, March 9."

Motion: Commissioner Hoppe

Seconded: Commissioner Dodge

Carried

**3. Monthly Check in (02:07)**

Commissioners, staff, and attendees shared ways that they welcome spring.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda or Arts & Culture Items (11:24)**

An attendee shared thoughts about how current changes in the cultural landscape, such as with Tacoma Arts Live, impact youth and creatives in Tacoma.

**5. Presentations**

**a. Quarterly Council Liaison Check-In (16:09)**

Councilmember Jamika Scott shared about the following items:

- Support the City can provide for artists looking for creative space
- Ways to stay informed and engaged with what the City is doing regarding ICE
- Encouraged Commissioners to advocate for concrete items that Council can feasibly take action on

**b. Council Coffee Demo (32:18)**

Vice Chair Takla and Commissioner Hoppe demonstrated a mock Council Coffee meeting with Councilmember Scott. Commissioners signed up for Council Coffee meetings.

Commissioners provided comments.

**c. Tacoma Arts Live Update (43:19)**

Tony Gomez provided an overview of the history of Tacoma Arts Live from its start as a public-private partnership to manage the City-owned theaters, to the development of extensive education programs, to its move into the Tacoma Armory, and its current debt struggle. The organization is currently in receivership and most operations will shut down on June 30, 2026. Tacoma Arts Live's presenting season will be discontinued at that time, but they will continue educational programming and possibly still rent short term space at the Armory. The ACE training program and space for 140+ ACE businesses will end on June 30 when the available funding for that program ends.

Tony shared his thoughts about Tacoma's need for generative space for creatives. Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

## 6. Action Items

### a. Environmental Services Glass Artist in Residence

(01:13:36)

Staff shared an overview of one proposal from the Public Art Work Plan, which is to use \$60,000 of 1% for Art funds to support a Glass Artist in Residence program with Hilltop Artists. The residency will focus on testing a post-consumer glass recycling program through educational and creative projects with students at Hilltop Artists and within the community that result in small artworks for City programs and the Municipal Art Collection.

Commissioners asked questions.

There was a motion: "I'll move to approve contracting to begin for the Glass Artist in Residence project with Hilltop Artists."

Motion: Commissioner Ng

Seconded: Commissioner Sanchez

Carried

## 7. Discussion/Updates

### a. Poet Laureate Subcommittee Recommendations

(01:24:10)

Commissioner Ng shared an overview of the Poet Laureate Subcommittee's recommendations for the Tacoma Poet Laureate program including retaining the 'Tacoma Poet Laureate' title and broadening all poetry-specific language to be inclusive of all literary arts genres.

### b. Draft Letter to Council Regarding ICE

(01:28:16)

Commissioner Suafoa-McClain shared an overview of a draft letter to Council regarding ICE that the JEDIS subcommittee has been working on. The letter encourages Council to continue taking proactive action to protect the community. A final draft will be brought back to the Commission for a vote.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

### c. Tacoma Public Library Partnership

(01:41:54)

Staff shared an overview of a 6-month pilot Artist in Residence program at Tacoma Public Library. The selected artist will have the opportunity to develop their own work, produce community programming, and collaborate with Community Hub partner organizations. The opportunity is restricted to artists who have been funded through the Tacoma Artists Initiative Program between 2023-2026 or have participated in one of three recent public art training programs.

### d. Retreat Prep & Advocacy items

(01:45:22)

Staff shared that the Tacoma Arts Commission retreat will be held on April 18, 10 am – 3:30 pm at the Tacoma Public Library main branch. Commissioners were asked to pre-review an outline of the updated strategic plan and to consider if there are any advocacy items they want to bring forward for 2026.

**e. Subcommittees – Retreat, JEDIS, Communications, Space, Public Art, Funding (01:48:17)**

Commissioners and staff gave updates about the following subcommittees:

- Retreat Subcommittee
  - This subcommittee’s work will transition to the strategic plan
- JEDIS Subcommittee
  - JEDIS rubric has been simplified to 5 questions that can be used at the retreat. Next meeting May 5
- Communications Subcommittee
  - Next meeting April 28
- Space Subcommittee
  - Next meeting April 24
- Public Art Subcommittee
  - Next meeting to be determined
- Funding Subcommittee
  - Next meeting April 15

**f. Arts & Cultural Vitality Survey (01:49:04)**

Staff shared that they will be launching a survey to the community to collect feedback to help inform a refresh of the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division’s strategic plan.

**8. Staff Check-In (01:49:27)**

**a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates – Funding, Community Programming, Public Art, Tacoma Creates**

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Hyun Kim was appointed as City Manager
- Tacoma Creates spending plan was shared with Council at Study Session
- Council voted to support the use of Tacoma Creates fund balance above reserves
- City’s 2027-28 budget cycle process is in process
- A reminder to vote in local elections
- List of spaces and venues in Tacoma publicly available for rent
- Arts & Cultural Vitality’s 2026 annual report release
- Finalizing space options for Arts at the Armory event
- Transitioning Tacoma Arts Month events calendar into year-round events calendar
- Updating the mural artist roster and accepting new applications
- Tacoma Creates funding panels are in progress; 81 eligible applications received

**9. Report Back (01:55:13)**

**a. Advocacy Reports**

There were no items.

**b. Funded Project Updates/Upcoming Arts Events/Arts Events Attended**

Commissioners shared about events they are aware of or have attended or been involved with including:

- Washington Lawyers for the Arts’ free legal advice week
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration**

There were no items.

**10. Adjourn**

**7:00 pm (01:55:12)**

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**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.



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.