



Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division
Community & Economic Development Dept.

Special Meeting

Date: April 18, 2026

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Tacoma Public Library - Main Branch

1102 Tacoma Avenue S.

Cascade Room and Community Hub Mixing Chamber

Commission Members in Attendance:

Jasmine Brown, Chair
Jes Takla, Vice Chair
Erica Chang
Lindsey Dodge
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Vernon Ng
Yixuan Pan
Elizabeth Panameno
Jeanette Sanchez
Sierra Suafoa-McClain

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Domonique Herrin
Ean Olsen
Janessa Post

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Hannah-Clarke Gilmore

City Staff Present:

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

Tacoma Creates Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Nicole Kendrick
Daniel Arias-Gomez
Faith Brown

1. Call to Order

10:11 am

Chair Brown called the meeting to order.

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit 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** **10:12 am**
Commissioners Herrin, Olsen, and Post had an excused absence.
- Vice Chair Takla asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the April 18 meeting.
- There was a motion: “I make a motion to approve the retreat agenda.”
Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares
Seconded: Commissioner Pan
Carried
- 3. Public Comment on Agenda** **10:13 am**
There were no public comments.
- 4. Welcome and Icebreaker** **10:14 am**
Commissioner Sanchez led Commission members in an interactive movement exercise.
- 5. Session 1: Presentations**
- a. Existing Arts & Cultural Vitality Programs** **10:36 am**
Staff presented an overview of the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division structure and budget, as well as an overview of program areas including:
- Community Programming – Tacoma Arts Month, Kaleidoscope, Tacoma Studio Tour, Arts at the Armory, Tacoma Poet Laureate
 - Arts Funding – Community Arts Projects, Tacoma Artists Initiative Program
 - Public Art – Municipal Art Collection, maintenance, consulting projects
 - Tacoma Creates – legislation and source of funding, funding for organizations, partnerships with Tacoma Public Schools and Tacoma Public Library, youth education programming
 - Creative Economy – Spaceworks Tacoma
- b. New Strategic Plan Structure** **11:25 am**
Staff presented an overview of the five strategies from the 2016 ArtFull Tacoma strategic plan. The City of Tacoma's Office of Strategy and the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division are working on a refresh of the plan to align with City of Tacoma and Community & Economic Development Department strategic plans. The updated plan will take into account major changes since 2016 including the inception of Tacoma Creates and space and affordability issues.
- c. JEDIS Subcommittee Equity-Lens Questions** **11:40 am**
The JEDIS Subcommittee presented five questions that Commissioners can use to see how aligned programs and projects are with the core equity values of the Commission.
- 6. Structured Lunch Break** **11:50**
Commissioners had small group discussions using question prompts.

7. Session 2: Break Out Sessions

a. Small-Group Discussions and Share Out

12:20 pm

Commissioners and staff broke into four small groups and worked collaboratively around the question, “What should Tacoma’s cultural landscape look like in five years?” Groups shared out some of the ideas from their discussions. Some of the ideas shared included:

- More Latino representation in programming
- Decentralizing cultural hubs
- Cultural organizations claiming their political agency
- More STEM organizations
- Arts and cultural programming within detention center
- More accessibility for people with disabilities
- Awareness of what is going on and stronger attendance at programming
- Working-class focused
- Interactive art experience that could be a tourism attraction
- Art in parks
- Activating unused/underused spaces for cultural purposes
- Community centers and programming for all ages
- Connected transportation options
- Strategic support to connect cultural organizations for synergy and shared resources
- Welcoming and inviting space for artists and cultural organizations

Commissioners and staff broke into four small groups and worked collaboratively around the question, “Why should the City support arts and culture?” Groups shared out some of the ideas from their discussions. Some of the ideas shared included:

- Create identity for a city, which attracts people to visit
- Help people feel connected and safe
- Provide and preserve barrier-free access for all
- Improve quality of life for all
- Build partnerships in educating community
- Enhance the vibrancy and beauty of a place
- Support a healthy community
- Encourage civic engagement
- Revenue generating
- Create common ground across diverse people

8. Structured Break

1:24

Commissioner Hoppe led Commission members in a collage activity.

9. Session 3: Break Out Sessions

a. Strategic Plan Exercise

1:35

Ted Richardson from the City of Tacoma's Office of Strategy introduced an activity to provide feedback on a draft of the updated strategic plan for the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division. Commissioners and staff broke into four small groups and provided feedback on each of the priority areas of the draft plan. The draft priority areas are:

- Cultivate an environment where artists and creative communities thrive
- Nurture creative placemaking and public art
- Invest in cultural organizations

Groups shared out some of the ideas from their discussions.

10. Structured Break

2:32 pm

Commissioner Pan led Commission members in a conversational activity.

11. Council Priorities and 2026 Updates

2:40 pm

Commissioners and staff looked at 2025 Council advocacy items and discussed possible advocacy items for 2026 including:

- Gratitude for Council's reauthorization of Tacoma Creates
- Preserving Arts Funding and Community Programming budget
- Need for affordable spaces for artists and the cultural sector, including use of City-owned spaces
- Tacoma Public Utilities' participation in the 1% for Arts program

The Space Subcommittee will further refine the specific advocacy item around space for artists and the cultural sector.

12. Wrap Up and Next Steps

3:25 pm

There were no additional items discussed.

13. Adjourn

3:25 pm

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.



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