

Members

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Chair
Jes Takla, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Jasmine Brown
Erica Chang
Katie Dean
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Vernon Ng
Derek Nunn
Ean Olsen
Jeanette Sanchez
Kenya Shakoor
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist
Marissa Laubscher, Public Art Program Manager
Rebecca Solverson, Division Manager
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: August 11, 2025

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

Commission Members in Attendance:

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Chair
Jes Takla, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Jasmine Brown
Katie Dean
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Vernon Ng
Derek Nunn
Ean Olsen
Jeanette Sanchez
Kenya Shakoor

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila
Lisa Jaret
Lynda Foster

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Erica Chang

1. Call to Order

5:04 pm (00:08)

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares called the meeting to order.

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

(00:55)

There were no excused absences.

Vice Chair Takla asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the August 11 meeting as well as the minutes from the June 9 meeting.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve the consent agenda."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Nunn

Carried

3. Public Comment on Agenda or Arts & Culture Items

(01:50)

Commissioners shared about inspiring arts events or festivals they have attended this summer.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

4. Presentations

a. Youth Seat Consideration

(09:38)

Linda Foster, Policy Analyst in the City Manager's Office, presented an overview of Council member Rumbaugh's proposal for a youth seat on several City Committee, Boards, and Commissions, including the Tacoma Arts Commission. She reviewed the history, purpose, and suggested structure for a youth seat. Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

Council member Rumbaugh is asking the Commission to decide whether they would like to be included in the proposal for a youth seat. Commissioners Dean, Gilmore, Hoppe, Kula, Ng, Nunn, and Sanchez volunteered to discuss the option to add a youth seat on the Commission. A recommendation will be voted on at the September Commission meeting.

5. Action Items

a. 2025-27 Tacoma Poet Laureate Recommendation

(39:31)

Staff gave an overview of the Tacoma Poet Laureate program, selection criteria, panel, and applicants. The Tacoma Poet Laureate selection panel recommended Mari Griffin as the 2025-2027 Tacoma Poet Laureate with Anida Yoeu Ali as the Alternate. The 'Pass the Torch' event where the new laureate will be honored will happen on August 17, 1 pm at Real Art Tacoma. Commissioner Ng and Chair Fernandez-Llamazares shared reflections from the panel. Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

There was a motion: "I'll make the motion to select Mari Griffin as the next poet laureate."

Motion: Commissioner Shakoor

Seconded: Chair Fernandez-Llamazares

Carried

b. AMOCAT Arts Awards Recommendation & Voting

(50:00)

Staff gave an overview of the AMOCAT Arts Awards categories, panel, selection criteria, and nominations. The AMOCAT Arts Awards subcommittee reviewed nominations and made recommendations for the Commission to consider. The nominees recommended by the AMOCAT Arts Awards committee for consideration are:

- **Community Outreach by an Individual:** Saiyare Refaei and Irina Rasputnis
- **Community Outreach by an Organization:** Remakery and Mi Centro
- **Arts Patron:** Tacoma Public Library

Commissioners Dean and Ng share the panel perspective on the nominees and panel process.

There was a motion: “I would move that we approve the panel’s recommendation of Tacoma Public Library for the Arts Patron award, Remakery and Mi Centro for the Community Outreach by an Organization award, and Saiyare Refaei and Irina Rasputnis for the Community Outreach by an Individual award.”

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Nunn

Carried

c. Poet Laureate Subcommittee

(01:04:01)

Staff presented the idea of forming a short-term subcommittee to look at the Poet Laureate position and potential updates for 2027 cycle. Commissioners provided clarifications and comments.

There was a motion: “I make a motion to form a poet laureate subcommittee to discuss the future of the program.”

Motion: Chair Fernandez-Llamazares

Seconded: Commissioner Ng

Carried

Chair Fernandez-Llamazares and Commissioners Kula and Ng volunteered to sit on the subcommittee.

d. Communication Subcommittee

(01:10:25)

Commissioner Gilmore presented the idea of forming a subcommittee to ideate around communications and resource access. Commissioners and staff discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: “I wanted to make a motion that we create the subcommittee.”

Motion: Commissioner Behe

Seconded: Commissioner Hoppe

Carried

Vice Chair Takla and Commissioners Dean, Gilmore, Hoppe, Nunn, and Olsen volunteered to sit on the subcommittee.

6. Discussion/Updates

a. JEDIS Subcommittee

(01:17:45)

Commissioner Gilmore gave an overview of the JEDIS Subcommittee’s most recent work. They are looking at ways to set expectations for fundees around the Commission’s JEDIS values. Commissioners asked questions and provided comments.

b. Tacoma Arts Month Updates and Sign-ups

(01:28:05)

Staff shared an overview of Tacoma Arts Month events:

- September 30, 5 pm – proclamation of Tacoma Arts Month and AMOCAT Arts Awards at City Council
- Arts Month events calendar of community-produced events
- October 4, 1-4 pm – Kaleidoscope at Tacoma Public Library main branch with Tacoma Creates and arts programming
- October 11 & 12, 11 am – 5 pm – Tacoma Studio Tour with 110 artists anticipated
- November 15 & 16, 11 am – 5 pm – Arts at the Armory with 110 artists anticipated

Commissioners asked questions and provided comments. Commissioners were asked to volunteer to help with Kaleidoscope and Arts at the Armory events.

c. Council Coffee Report Back

(01:39:15)

Commissioners shared comments about their experiences in the meetings with City Council members:

- Councilmember Hines – meeting with Commissioner Sanchez and Chair Fernandez-Llamazares
- Mayor Woodards – meeting with Commissioners Hoppe, Brown, and Chair Fernandez-Llamazares

7. Staff Check-In

(01:40:35)

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

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Tacoma Mall Subarea Art & Placemaking Plan presented to the Economic Development Committee
- Mid-biennium budget modification process
- Equity Index workshop for Committees, Boards, and Commissions
- TAIP fundees under contract and first cohort session
- 'Upstream Together' installation by Environmental Services Artist in Residence
- Oakland School mural completed
- Pride crosswalk completed
- Current calls to artists: Sheridan/Wapato, Tacoma Dome, Public Art Reaching Community training cohort projects
- J Street mural design
- Browns Point Playfield artwork installation
- Tacoma Creates reauthorization: Council Study Session July 29 and tentative first reading by Council on September 16

8. Report Back

(01:49:36)

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:

- ALMA building gifted to the Puyallup Tribe
- Tacoma Little Theatre expressing importance for reauthorization of Tacoma Creates
- Cushman Substation
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

9. Adjourn

6:57 pm (01:53:50)

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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