Members
Kenya Shakoor, Chair
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Katie Dean
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Heidi Wygle
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate
Staff
Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist
Rebecca Solverson, Division Manager
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manage

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division
Community & Economic Development Dept.

Date: November 18, 2024
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.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes

Commission Members in Attendance:
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair
Connie Behe
Katie Dean
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Heidi Wygle

Commission Members Excused Absence:
Kenya Shakoor, Chair
Sarah Jane Hoppe

City Staff Present:
Daniel Garcia
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila

1. **Call to Order** **5:07 pm (00:11)**

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

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəɬ txʷəl tiiɬ ʔa čəɬ ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiiɬ puyaləpabš dxʷəsɬaɬlils 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 **(00:59)**

Chair Shakoor and Commissioner Hoppe had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the November 18 meeting as well as the minutes from the October 14 meeting. The meeting minutes from October 14 incorrectly reflected unexcused absences for Commissioners Gilmore, Neal, Nunn, and Sanchez; staff will update the minutes to reflect that these were excused absences.

There was a motion: "I move."
Motion: Commissioner Behe
Seconded: Commissioner Neal
Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping **(02:25)**

Vice Chair Brown shared that she is looking forward to Arts at the Armory and that she attended Puget Sound Revels' Dragon Parade.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items **(03:43)**

Roger Edwards shared comments including ways to honor artists.

5. Action Items

a. 2025-26 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program Guidelines **(09:03)**

Staff shared the 2025-26 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) funding guidelines and went over the main content updates including adding in language about TAIP funding being seed money and about the TAIP fundee cohort. The funding subcommittee and staff recommended keeping funding at $4,000 for each award. Commissioners asked questions.

There was a motion: "I will make a motion to approve a $4,000 grant award for individual artists."
Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares
Seconded: Commissioner Kula
Motion: Carried

Staff shared additional updates to guidelines including updates to the funding priorities language; adding in the option to submit written, video, or audio narrative responses; and simplifying the budget form. Commissioners asked questions.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve the guidelines as they are."
Motion: Commissioner Sanchez
Seconded: Commissioner Takla
Motion: Carried

b. Funding Distribution for 2025-2026 **(31:14)**

Staff shared that there is an estimated $395,000 to distribute through Tacoma Arts Commission funding programs in 2025-2026. Staff proposed funding distribution as follows:

Funding Program	2025	2026
Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (25%)	$100,000	
Community Arts Projects (75%)	$148,000	$147,000

At this funding allocation, the TAIP funding program can support up to 25 artists with awards of $4,000 each for a total of $100,000 for the biennium. At this funding allocation, each year the Community Arts Projects program can support 49 organizations at $3,000, or 24 organizations at $6,000, or 16 organizations at $9,000, or any combination in between.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I will make a motion to accept the proposal."
Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares
Seconded: Commissioner Nunn
Motion: Carried

c. Commission Executive Committee Elections (44:00)

Commissioners voted on the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the 2025 calendar year. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares and Takla were nominated for Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Commissioners voted for the Chair position as follows: Heide Fernandez-Llamazares (9 votes) and Jes Takla (2 votes). Commissioners voted for the Vice Chair position as follows: Jes Takla (10 votes).

Staff asked for a motion to accept Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares for the 2025 Chair and Commissioner Takla for the 2025 Vice Chair position.

There was a motion: "I would move that we accept our new chair and vice chair as elected."
Motion: Commissioner Sanchez
Seconded: Commissioner Behe
Motion: Carried

6. Presentations

a. Division Manager's Vision and Goals (57:17)

Rebecca Solverson shared a presentation of her thoughts about the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division Manager role, her background and past work that informs her current approach, and short and long priorities.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

7. Discussion/Updates

a. JEDI Subcommittee Update (01:22:32)

The JEDI Subcommittee met on November 8. This is a Commission-led ongoing subcommittee. With light attendance and unclear direction, the subcommittee needs either a restructure or recommitment process. In response to this and to past conversations about integrating JEDI practices directly into the Commission's standards instead of a separate subcommittee, Commissioner Gilmore shared that she drafted a document that starts to outline a process for this with the aim to move beyond conversation and into actionable changes as efficiently as possible. Commissioners who are interested in collaborating on this were invited to join the next JEDI Subcommittee meeting on December 13.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

8. Staff Check-In **(01:30:41)**

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Arts at the Armory will be on December 7 and 8. 108 artists will be participating; Commissioners were invited to volunteer to help with the event. There will be an artist reception on December 7 so the artists can mingle and see each other's work.
- 55 eligible applications were received for 2025 Community Arts Projects funding. The panel will be reviewing applications in December and their recommendations will be presented to the full Commission on December 9.
- The final TAIP funding cohort was held in November with an opportunity for the artists to share about their projects and provide feedback to inform the next funding cycle.
- The Economic Development Committee of Council will interview 8 people and will be making recommendations for who to appoint to the Tacoma Arts Commission to fill open seats.

b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Applications for the Public Art Program Manager position are being reviewed.
- A dedication for the Larchmont concrete stamp project will be held for Larchmont Elementary students and their families.
- A series of temporary projects will be installed soon in the McKinley neighborhood as part of the public art training program that Spaceworks is leading.
- At a future meeting, the Commission will review proposals for a permanent artwork for the McKinley Hill Overlook.
- The Bridge of Glass lighting upgrade was completed.
- Council is scheduled to vote on the City's 2025-26 biennial budget on December 10.

c. Tacoma Creates

The annual report covering Tacoma Creates funding year 2023-24 will be released this week. Commissioners were invited to review the report and share it. Tacoma Creates reauthorization is on track for early 2025.

9. Report Back **(01:46:22)**

a. Advocacy Reports

There were no items.

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

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

- Tacoma Studio Tours
- Puget Sound Revels' Dragon Parades
- Tacoma Light Trail
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

10. **Community Comment** **(01:49:47)**

    Roger Edwards shared copies of a Tacoma News Tribune article.

11. **Adjourn** **6:57 pm (01:50:20)**

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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