

Members

Benjamin Maestas III, Chair
Olivia Samuel, Vice Chair
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Keith Blocker, City Council Liaison Alternate
Jasmine Brown
Heather Conklin
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams

Staff

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manage

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: September 12, 2022

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.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Benjamin Maestas III, Chair
Olivia Samuel, Vice Chair
Jasmine Brown
Heather Conklin
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams

City Staff Present:

Amy McBride
Chevi Chung
Naomi Strom-Avila
Rebecca Solverson
Lisa Jaret

Guest Presenters:

Suzanne Skaar

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Jeanette Sanchez

1. Call to Order

5:04 pm (00:15)

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

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłiils 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

(00:32)

Commissioners Fernandez-Llamazares and Sanchez had excused absences.

Vice Chair Samuel asked for a motion to approve the September meeting agenda as well as the minutes from the August meeting.

There was a motion: “I motion that we approved the consent agenda and last month’s minutes.”

Motion: Commissioner Conklin

Second: Commissioner Scott

Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report/Housekeeping (02:20)

Chair Maestas and staff gave an update on the move to hybrid Tacoma Arts Commission meetings starting in October.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (12:45)

There were no comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations (13:48)

a. Fundee Highlight

Staff introduced Suzanne Skaar, Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) funded artist, and shared a video created by Suzanne. Suzanne shared about her research and the development of her TAIP funded project. She will be sharing her work at Kaleidoscope, the Tacoma Arts Month opening party on October 5 to gather input from community members and potentially record voices to incorporate into the game. There was a discussion about Suzanne’s project.

6. Discussion/Updates

a. Tacoma Arts Month Updates and Sign-ups (34:20)

Staff gave an update about Tacoma Arts Month materials and signups to distribute posters, tri-fold flyers, and brochures in the community. Staff gave an update about the Kaleidoscope opening party activities and performances, and signups for volunteers to help with setup on October 4, and before, during, and after the party on October 5.

b. Arts & Economic Prosperity Study (47:32)

Staff gave an update about the Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) study, thanked Commissioners for volunteering with the audience surveys, and gave an update about compiling a list of all arts and culture organizations in Tacoma. The list will be used to inform the organizational survey portion of the study, which will happen in early 2023.

c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (49:00)

Commissioner Stump gave an update about the subcommittee’s work in reviewing and providing input on sections of the 2023 Community Arts Projects funding guidelines.

7. Action Items

a. 2023 Community Arts Projects Funding Guidelines (50:09)

Staff shared the 2023 Community Arts Projects funding guidelines and went over the main content updates including clarification of eligibility, funding priorities, and Evaluation Criteria. There was a discussion about adding in language to encourage compensation of artists for their time. Staff will work on updating the guidelines to include such language.

There was a motion: “With the exception of allowing Naomi to provide a little bit more language around artist opportunities, whether it is financial or exchange of services, but I make a motion to move forward with the funding requirements.”

Motion: Vice Chair Samuel
Second: Chair Maestas
Motion: Carried

b. Funding Distribution for 2023-2024 (1:24:22)

Staff gave an update about the funding distribution for the 2023-2024 biennium including background of the funding cycle and the role of the Tacoma Arts Commission in deciding how to distribute available funding between Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding programs. With an estimated \$300,000 available for distribution, staff proposed funding as follows:

Funding Program	2023	2024
Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (24%)		\$72,000
Community Arts Projects (76%)	\$114,000	\$114,000

There was a discussion about funding distribution.

There was a motion: “I move to accept the staff’s recommendation for the funding distribution for 2023-2024.”

Motion: Chair Ben
Second: Commissioner Scott
Motion: Carried

8. Staff Check-In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates (1:39:53)

Staff gave an update about the official announcement and recruiting for eight open seats on the Tacoma Arts Commission. Staff gave an update about professional development for the Tacoma Artists Hangout with Artist Trust in October and Marketing for Creatives part II with Miriam Works in November.

b. Public Art Updates (1:43:38)

Staff gave an update about the McKinley Neighborhood Fair, storm drain stencils, Black Lives Matter mural project, and the reinstallation of the Sun King.

c. Tacoma Creates (1:47:47)

There were no Tacoma Creates updates.

9. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports (1:48:00)

There were no advocacy reports.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended (1:48:12)

There were no funded project updates and arts events attended.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration (1:48:26)

There were no future agenda items for consideration.

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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