

## 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  
Angela Weaver  
Joe Williams

## Staff

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

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Tacoma Venues and Events Department



**Date:** March 14, 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](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes).

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### *Commission Members in Attendance:*

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  
Joe Williams

### *City Staff Present:*

Amy McBride  
Chevi Chung  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Lisa Jaret

### *Guest Presenters:*

Kurt Kiefer  
Barb Luecke

### *Commission Members Excused Absence:*

MaryMikel Stump  
Angela Weaver

### *Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Alejandra Villeda

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## 1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:00)

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.”

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**2. Consent Agenda (00:37)**

Commissioner Weaver and Commissioner Stump had an excused absence.

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

There was a motion: "I move that we accept the agenda."

Motion: Commissioner Conklin

Seconded: Commissioner Scott

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (01:56)**

Chair Maestas gave an update about Commissioner Lane's resignation and Commissioner Stump's extended leave. Chair Maestas announced that Write253 would provide a presentation about their funded programming at the April Commission meeting. Chair Maestas gave an update about the Commission retreat and then led a check-in exercise.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (09:10)**

There was no public comment on any agenda items.

**5. Presentations (10:09)**

**a. Update on Public Art for Sound Transit's Hilltop Link Extension**

Kurt Kiefer, Public Art Project Manager for Sound Transit, gave an overview on the public art project that Kenji Stoll is creating for Sound Transit's Hilltop Link Extension. Barb Luecke from Sound Transit joined the presentation. Commissioners discussed and asked questions about the project.

**6. Discussion/Updates**

**a. Council Coffee – Role Playing and Sign-ups (38:59)**

Staff gave an update about the Council Coffee meeting format. Commissioner Sanchez, Commissioner Kula, and staff walked through a mock role-play of a Council Coffee meeting. Staff asked Commissioners to sign-up for Council Coffee meetings.

**b. ArtFull Tacoma Overview (1:01:42)**

Staff gave an overview of ArtFull Tacoma and how the document guides the work of the Commission. Staff shared how ArtFull Tacoma was adopted by City Council in 2016 and is a strategy of Tacoma 2025's Focus Areas and Framework Goals. Staff shared about each strategy in ArtFull Tacoma: Grow and sustain the creative economy; Promote equity, diversity, and inclusiveness through the arts; Use public art to create active, accessible, and welcoming public places; Strengthen Tacoma's creative ecosystem; and Optimize performance and capacity of arts programming, services, and operations. There was discussion about these two strategies: Grow and sustain the creative economy and optimize performance and capacity of arts programming, services, and operations.

**c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (1:22:04)**

Staff and subcommittee members gave an update on the work of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee including their work to provide input on potential things to consider with the Gift Policy. The subcommittee also started discussions about outreach strategies, connecting with local influencers, and potential for an ambassador program to help share out opportunities. The next DEI subcommittee meeting will focus on demographics of applicants and outreach strategies and ways to communicate with the public.

## 7. Staff Check-In

### a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

(1:29:00)

Staff shared that 28 of the 29 Community Arts Projects fundees are now under contract. Staff invited Commissioners to the next TAIP fundee cohort meeting. The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality's 2021 Annual Report is currently being designed; it will be ready for the April Commission meeting. Staff gave an update about Professional Development opportunities including work with the City of Tacoma's Tax & License Department and Washington Lawyers for the Arts. Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Arts Month subcommittee's meeting including an overview of the Kaleidoscope opening party, Tacoma Studio Tour, and narrowing dates and location for Arts at the Armory in 2022. Staff gave an update about the potential of AMOCAT Arts Awards nominations published on the Tacoma Arts Month website. Staff presented about an opportunity for Commissioners to activate social media throughout the year.

### b. Public Art Updates

(1:38:50)

Staff gave an update about the Youth Memorial dedication event, which was held at the Eastside Community Center on February 26. Commissioner Brown spoke about the event. Staff gave an update about the bluebird box painting workshops to support the art in Oak Tree Park.

### c. Tacoma Creates

(1:41:54)

Staff shared that the deadline for Comprehensive Organizational Support funding is March 14 and the deadline for Impact Funding is March 28. Staff gave an update about the public voting phase of the Participatory Budgeting projects to support cultural programming in East Tacoma (98404) and South Tacoma (98409).

## 8. Report Back

### a. Advocacy Reports

(1:47:20)

There were no items.

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

(1:47:29)

Chair Maestas gave an update about meeting TAIP funding recipient Lance Griffith and viewing his paintings of Native American Chiefs. Commissioner Scott reminded Commissioners about Read Across Tacoma week. Commissioner Kula gave an update about glass and performance artist Yixuan Pan coming to UW Tacoma and having attending *Grounded* at Tacoma Arts Live.

### c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(1:51:37)

Chair Maestas inquired about the recent masking updates and when the Commission could meet again in person. Staff responded that City Council meetings and Council committees are meeting in a hybrid format, and that the Arts Commission will be moving to a hybrid mode in the future, when approved by the City.

## 9. Adjourn

7:00 pm (1:54:56)

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### MEETING FREQUENCY

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm, venue to be determined based on health regulations. All meetings of the Tacoma Arts Commission are open to the public.

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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.

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