

**Members**

Michael Kula, Chair  
Jeanette Sanchez, Vice Chair  
Jasmine Brown  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Marissa Kall  
Wade Neal  
Derek Nunn  
Jamika Scott  
Kenya Shakoor  
MaryMikel Stump  
Alejandra Villeda  
Joe Williams  
Ton Williams  
Heidi Wygle  
John Hines, City Council Liaison  
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

**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

Community & Economic Development Dept.



**Date: March 13, 2023**

**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](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes).

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Michael Kula, *Chair*  
Jasmine Brown  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Wade Neal  
Derek Nunn  
Jamika Scott  
Kenya Shakoor  
MaryMikel Stump  
Alejandra Villeda  
Joe Williams  
Ton Williams  
Heidi Wygle

*City Staff Present:*

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

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Jeanette Sanchez, *Vice Chair*  
Marissa Kall

*Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Alejandra Villeda

**1. Call to Order**

**5:03 pm (00:00)**

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

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəʔ txʷəl tiitʔ ʔa čəʔ ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiitʔ puyaləpabš dxʷəsʔəʔliils 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 (00:30)**

Commissioners Jeanette Sanchez and Marissa Kall had excused absences.

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

There was a motion: "I move to approve the consent agenda."

Motion: Commissioner Wygle

Seconded: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (01:55)**

Chair Kula welcomed the new Commissioners he hasn't met yet and reminded Commissioners about the retreat.

**4. Public Comment (02:15)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Action Items**

**a. 2023-25 Tacoma Poet Laureate Recommendation (03:05)**

The Tacoma Poet Laureate selection panel recommended Christian Paige as the 2023-2025 Tacoma Poet Laureate with Anida Ali as the Alternate. Staff gave an update on behalf of Vice Chair Sanchez about her experience on the panel.

There was a motion: "Sarah Jane motions to accept those nominees."

Motion: Commissioner Hoppe

Second: Commissioner Neal

Motion: Carried

**b. Mural Artist Roster Artist Selection (12:00)**

Staff presented the review panel's recommendations for the artists to include on the 2023 Mural Artist Roster. The panel recommended adding these 26 muralists to the existing roster: AJ Newland, Bryan Stryeski, Burcu Köleli, Cody Esp, Daniel Hunter, Dionne Bonner, Hillarie Isackson, James Woodard, Jaymes Junio, Jorge Mota, Juan La Torre, Kala Escobar, Katie Dean, Keith Carter, Liam Miller & Beth Fackrell, Liz Morrow, Lourdes Jackson, Mark Monlux, Mary Mann, Nathan Burnham-Bradley, Perry Porter, Rebekah Slusher, Rick Bisol, Savannah Jane O'Malley, Will Raisl, and Zak Rivera.

There was a motion "I move to accept the list of muralists to the Mural Roster."

Motion: Commissioner Brown

Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion: Carried

**c. 2023-24 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program Funding Recommendations (23:50)**

Staff presented the 2023-2024 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program review panel's funding recommendations. The panel recommended funding for the following 24 applicants at \$4,000 each for a total of \$96,000: Anida Yoeu Ali, Kristina Batiste, Burl Battersby, Richard Bisol, Hugo Moro, Hadiya Finley, Antonio Gomez, Luna Malia Azzouni, Mary Mann, Roxann Murray, Yoshi Nakagawa, Vernon Ng, Yixuan Pan, Melinda Raebyne, Teryn

Reché, Addy Sandoval, Sophie Schatz, Daniella Shepherd, Masahiro Sugano, Merilee Tanbara, Nicole Turner, Kris Vermeer, Cassio Vianna, and Donovan Wilson.

There was a motion: “So moved.”

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Second: Commissioner Hoppe

Motion: Carried

## 6. Discussion/Updates

### a. Council Coffee – Role Playing and Sign-ups (37:07)

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

### b. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (1:15:41)

Staff gave an update about the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee meeting’s meeting on February 16. Drena Sellers, Equity Programs Consultant with the City of Tacoma’s Office of Equity & Human Rights, who presented at that subcommittee meeting, gave a brief update.

## 7. Staff Check-In

### a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates (01:23:15)

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Upcoming Resources for Creatives workshops in 2023:
  - LGBTQ+ Core Competency presented by Rainbow Center on April 19, in-person at Tacoma Public Library Moore Branch from 6-7:30 pm and led by Charlie Best, Education Manager.
  - Building Better Business Foundations presented by Spaceworks Tacoma and led by Jennifer English, Business Training Coordinator. Part I on June 14, Part II on July 12. Meetings will be held in a hybrid format.
  - Early planning efforts are under way for a panel discussion with the working title, “Navigating Multiple Identities as a Creative”.
  - Looking at possibility of Washington Lawyers for the Arts presenting an “Intellectual Property for Creatives” workshop.
- Commissioner Nunn was the first Commissioner to be featured in the social media Commissioner Spotlight.
- Pass the Torch will be held on April 12, 6-7 pm, at the Moore Library and livestreamed. Current poet laureate Lydia K. Valentine will welcome in Christian Paige. Staff asked for commission volunteers to help with set up, tear down, and in greeting attendees.
- The Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) audience surveys count is at 797 to date. The AEP organizational surveys started in late February and staff will start follow up with non-responders.
- The 2022 Annual Report is in design. Staff is aiming to have completed report by end of March.

- Tacoma Arts Commission retreat session 1 is on March 25, 12–2 pm, at University of Washington Tacoma, Cherry Parkes, Room 325. Thanks to Commissioner Stump for helping think through engaging activities focused on teambuilding and getting to know each other.

**b. Public Art Updates (01:39:12)**

Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Mall Art Plan and Traffic Box artist selection process. Commissioners Nunn, Williams, and Wygle volunteered to serve on the Hilltop Plaque review panel. Staff gave an update about the Public Art in private development contribution and the Lushootseed concrete stamps project.

**c. Tacoma Creates (01:50:40)**

Tacoma Creates Impact Funding applications are due on March 27 and Comprehensive Organizational Support applications are due March 13.

**8. Report Back**

**a. Advocacy Reports (01:52:10)**

There were no advocacy reports.

**b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended (01:52:10)**

Commissioners Williams, Hoppe, Brown, and Nunn gave an update about attending artist talks and the Black Art & Black Artists exhibition at Tacoma Community College, which Commissioners Shakoor and Brown had work included in.

Chair Kula gave an update about an upcoming summer performance from a Namibian performance artist and inquired about potential options for performance venues in the community.

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration (01:58:55)**

Items mentioned included surveys and demographic information collected from applicants and panelists, and considering if there is anything in particular that Commissioners should advocate for at Council Coffee meetings.

**9. Adjourn**

**7:03 pm (02:00:55)**

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**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.



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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