

**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  
Joe Williams  
Ton Williams  
Heidi Wygle  
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison  
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

**Staff**

Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist  
Ricky Reyes, Public Art Project Manager  
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Program Manager  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division

Community & Economic Development Dept.



**Date: March 11, 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](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes)

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Kenya Shakoor, Chair  
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair  
Connie Behe  
Katie Dean  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Michael Kula  
Derek Nunn  
Joe Williams  
Ton Williams  
Heidi Wygle

*City Staff Present:*

Daniel Garcia  
Lisa Jaret  
Ricky Reyes  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila

*Guest Presenters:*

Roxann Murray

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Wade Neal  
Jeanette Sanchez  
Jes Takla

**1. Call to Order**

**5:08 pm (00:00)**

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

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiif puyaləpabš dxwəstəłlils 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 (00:45)**

Commissioners Neal, Sanchez, and Takla had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the March meeting as well as the minutes from the February meeting.

Chair Shakoor noted that the “Council Coffee – Role Playing and Sign-ups” Discussion item on the agenda will be postponed to the April meeting.

There was a motion: “Motion to approve the new agenda.”

Motion: Commissioner Hoppe

Seconded: Commissioner Behe

Motion: Carried

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

There was no Chair’s Report.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (02:45)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Presentations**

**a. Fundee Highlight (03:05)**

Staff introduced Roxann Murray, who received 2023-24 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding. Roxann shared about the body of photography she created to honor Indigenous women and how the funding supported the creation of new work and helped her grow in her career. The images are on display through May 20 in the community gallery at the Washington State History Museum. There will be a closing event on May 16. Commissioners shared feedback, comments, and questions.

**6. Action Items**

**a. Stewart Safe Routes to Schools Street Murals Artist Selection (20:30)**

Staff gave an overview of the Stewart Safe Routes to Schools street murals project. Locations include a 50th & D Street traffic circle, 51st & D Street intersection bulb-out, and 52nd & D Street off-set island. Staff conducted an initial narrowing of the applicant pool and Stewart students conducted the final review and selected Perry Porter for the project.

Commissioners discussed and asked question around maintenance, approaches to transitioning the murals into more long-term pieces, and possibilities to build out infrastructure to make the locations safer for youth walking to school.

There was a motion: “I move that we accept the artist, Perry Porter.”

Motion: Commissioner Behe

Second: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Motion: Carried

**b. Council Advocacy Items (36:17)**

Chair Shakoor shared about the upcoming Council Coffee meetings and the opportunity for Commissioners to advocate Council for support in the 2025-26 budget planning process.

Staff shared the Tacoma Arts Commission’s budget for funding programs, outlining funding distributed through the Commission’s funding programs since 2005.

Chair Shakoor led Commissioners in a writing reflection exercise around the question, “How can we reimagine funding the arts so that artists can create with more ease in Tacoma?” Commissioners shared some of their ideas.

Other advocacy items to consider include:

- Public art staffing needed to deliver on all of the projects currently funded
- Reauthorization of Tacoma Creates
- Tacoma Public Utilities’ participation in the 1% for Art program

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

A motion on this topic was tabled until the April Commission meeting.

## **7. Discussion/Updates**

### **a. Division Manager Recruitment**

**(1:18:32)**

The hiring process for the Division Manager of Arts & Cultural Vitality is still ongoing and no candidate has been announced yet.

## **8. Staff Check-In**

**(1:20:45)**

### **a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates**

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Social media share out of funded artists and public art projects
- Booking of new segments for artTown TV show
- Survey of funding recipients related to marketing and promotion needs
- Design of Arts & Cultural Vitality’s 2023 Annual Report
- Tacoma Arts Commission retreat session on April 7, 2 – 4 pm. Commissioners Gilmore and Takla and staff are working to develop activities for the session

### **b. Public Art Updates**

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Upcoming public art project at the Tacoma Dome
- Sitting on a panel for the Maritime Skill Center project, led by Tacoma Public Schools and Port of Tacoma
- Teruko Nimura is starting as the Environmental Services Artist in Residence on March 12
- Dedication for Dionne Bonner’s South Tacoma library mural on March 30
- Natalie Dupille was selected for the Public Works Artist in Residence position and will be starting in April. Commissioner Dean shared about the selection process

### **c. Tacoma Creates**

Staff noted that 2024-2025 Tacoma Creates Comprehensive Organizational Support applications are due March 11 and Impact Funding applications are due March 25.

## 9. Report Back

(01:32:13)

### a. Advocacy Reports

Chair Shakoor thanked Commissioners for their participation in the earlier conversation about Council advocacy items.

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

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

- Tacoma Community College's Black Artists exhibition and panel discussions
- Event at Governor's mansion for Black artists
- X: The Life and Times of Malcom X at McCaw Hall
- Use of the mural artist roster for community projects
- Ground to Sound event at The Grand Cinema
- A Two-Way Mirror exhibit at Museum of Glass and book reading at University of Puget Sound
- An Evening in New Orleans event produced by the Bajan Station
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

### c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

## 10. Adjourn

6:50 pm (01:42:17)

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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.



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