

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
Natasha Lane
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: January 10, 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
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Michael Kula
Natasha Lane
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump
Angela Weaver
Joe Williams

City Staff Present:

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

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Heather Conklin

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Alejandra Villeda

1. Call to Order

5:07 pm (0:00)

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 dxʷəsłəłils 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

(0:38)

Commissioner Conklin had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Samuel asked for a motion to approve the January agenda as well as the minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve the minutes from December 13th and approve our consent agenda."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Kula

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping

(3:05)

Chair Maestas gave a reminder about Roberts Rules of Order and meetings being a safe space. Chair Maestas welcomed new members Commissioners Lane, Neal, Weaver, and Williams, and invited the Commission to share their reasons for serving on the Commission.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

(26:25)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Discussion/Updates

a. Subcommittee Sign-ups:

(27:21)

Chair Maestas introduced the subcommittees and gave an overview of each subcommittee and their relationship to the Commission.

i. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Staff shared that this is a commissioner-led ongoing subcommittee that meets once a month, every third Thursday on Zoom from 4-5PM. Staff gave an overview of some of the projects the subcommittee has worked on including revising the Commission's Statement of Commitment, reviewing funding priorities, discussing the Cultural New Deal, making recommendations around the Commission retreat, and discussing the Commission's gift policy. Commissioners Fernandez-Llamazares, Maestas, Neal, Samuel, Sanchez, Stump, and Weaver volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

ii. Municipal Art Collection Deaccession, Accession, and Gift Policy

Staff shared an overview of the Municipal Art Collection's Deaccession, Accession, and Gift Policies and how the subcommittee will help update policy language and guidelines. Meetings will be scheduled based on subcommittee members' schedules. Commissioners Conklin, Fernandez-Llamazares, Stump, and Williams volunteered to serve on the subcommittee, along with returning subcommittee members.

iii. Tacoma Arts Month

Staff shared an overview of Tacoma Arts Month including that help is needed with social media, AMOCAT Arts Awards and honorees, and in volunteering at in-person events for Arts Month. Meetings will be scheduled based on subcommittee members' schedules. Commissioners Fernandez-Llamazares, Kula, Samuel, Scott, and Weaver volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

b. Arts Commission Annual Retreat (38:34)

Chair Maestas shared about the Commission’s annual retreat in 2021. The first retreat session focused on teambuilding and getting to know each other. The second session focused on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Commissioners discussed things they appreciated from the 2021 retreat, which should be adopted for the 2022 retreat including a session focused on getting to know each other, one-on-one and small group discussions, and creating together in any artistic discipline. Commissioners will further discuss big picture issues to cover at the 2022 retreat.

c. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Subcommittee (59:25)

Vice Chair Samuel shared an overview of what the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee has been working on including identifying values-based behaviors needed for participation on the Commission.

6. Staff Check-In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates (1:05:08)

Staff shared updates on funding programs including the closing out of final reports and payments for 2021 Community Arts Projects, the launch of a press release and funding notifications for 2022 Community Arts Projects funding, and an upcoming Tacoma Artists Initiative Program artist cohort meeting. Staff, in collaboration with TV Tacoma, are relaunching the artTown television show; the show is in pre-production with interviews in the works with Chuck Taylor, Tacoma Light Trail, and Tamiko Nimura. Staff shared about the ‘Building Credit and a Budget for Creatives’ professional development workshop on January 16 and a marketing workshop on February 22.

b. Public Art Updates (1:17:15)

Staff gave an update about: the Community History project at the Eastside Community Center, Dionne Bonner’s Black Lives Matter mural project including outreach and surveys, Teruko Nimura’s Public Art Reaching Community temporary installation at Wright Park, the dedication of Dionne Bonner’s “In Loving Memory” mural at the Eastside Community Center, outreach efforts with Dion Thomas in support of work at the Eastside Community Center, and that the cedar from the Tacoma totem pole will be transported to the Puyallup Tribe.

c. Tacoma Creates (1:25:26)

Staff shared about the upcoming release of the Tacoma Creates 2022-23 funding guidelines for Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support. Staff asked Commissioners to help get the word out about the funding opportunities.

7. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports (1:27:55)

There were no items.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended (1:28:38)

Commissioner Brown gave an update about her meeting with Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funded artist Suzanne Skaar.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration (1:30:40)

There were no items.

8. Adjourn

6:43 pm (1:36:52)

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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