Members
Heather Conklin, Chair
Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Keith Blocker, City Council Liaison Alternate
Olivia Allison
Michelle Douglas
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Anna Holcomb
Paula Jacobson
Michael Kula
Benjamin Maestas III
Elizabeth Pew
James Stowe
Wanda Thompson
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
Sarah Woodson

Staff
Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist
Clarissa Gines, Tacoma Creates Coordinator
Lisa Jaret, Tacoma Creates Program Manager
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Date: February 10, 2020
Location: 747 Market Street, Room 248
Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:
Heather Conklin, Chair
Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair
Olivia Allison
Michelle Douglas
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Anna Holcomb
Paula Jacobson
Michael Kula
Benjamin Maestas III
Elizabeth Pew
James Stowe
Sarah Woodson

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

Guests Present:
Will Suarez
Dierdre Patterson
Don Lacky

Commission Members Excused Absence:
Wanda Thompson
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:
None

Summary Minutes
Tacoma Arts Commission
Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality
Tacoma Venues & Events

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.
1. **Call to Order** 5:06 pm (00:14)
Chair Conklin called the meeting to order. Chair Conklin recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

ʔukʷaditəb ʔuhigʷatəb čəɬ txʷəl tiɬʔə ʔa čəɬʔəl ta swatxʷixʷtxʷələ puyaləpabš dxʷasəhils gʷəlʔutxʷaləlcəb 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** 5:06 pm (00:31)
Commissioner Wilmot-Stenehjem and Thompson had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Ayala asked for a motion to approve the updated agenda as well as minutes from the January meeting.

Motion: Carried

3. **Chair’s Report** 5:07 pm (01:09)
Hilltop Artists was named Washington Organization of the Year. Proposition 1 is on the ballot.

4. **Presentations**
   a. **Revolving Loan Fund and Microloan Program for Small Businesses** 5:09 pm (02:05)
   Will Suarez and Dierdre Patterson of the City’s Community & Economic Development Department gave an overview of the City’s loan programs – small business loans and micro-loans – which can be for existing and start-up businesses, for profit and non-profit organizations located in Tacoma. Consideration raised to roll into Professional Development Series for Financial Management.

5. **Staff Check-In**
   a. **Tacoma Creates** 5:27 pm (21:34)
   Staff shared that the Tacoma Creates 2020 funding applications and guidelines are now available to the public. Application deadline for Comprehensive Organizational Support is February 28, 2020 and the Impact Funding deadline is March 18, 2020. Application support workshops are ongoing in February.

   The City received 48 applications for the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board. The Economic Development Committee will conduct interviews with the goal of the first advisory board meeting in May 2020.
6. Discussion/Updates

a. Arts Commission Annual Retreat
5:32 pm (26:32)
The Commission’s annual retreat will be on Saturday, May 9 at 10 AM – 3 PM, location to be
determined. Planned retreat topics include work around developing an equity, diversity,
and inclusion strategy for the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality; priority focuses for
Tacoma Arts Commission funding allocations and areas where the Commission can
advocate for structural changes across the City.

b. Council Coffee Role Playing and Sign-ups
5:40 pm (34:37)
Staff gave an overview of what a Council Coffee meeting is like and when they will happen.
Commissioner Douglas shared how she prepares for her Council Coffee meetings.
Commissioner Douglas and Amy McBride presented a mock sample of a Council Coffee
meeting. Staff will create a 2020 Year in Review document and one-pager about Tacoma
Creates to help Commissioners prepare for their Council Coffee meeting. Commissioners
discussed, asked questions, and signed up for Council Coffee meetings.

c. Literary Laureate Subcommittee Update
6:04 pm (57:53)
Commissioners Kula, Stowe, and Fernandez-Llamazares shared an update on the
subcommittee’s research on the prior Poet Laureate responses and kinds of laureate formats
in various cities. The subcommittee is considering moving in the direction of recommending a
transition to a Literary Laureate or an even broader title as well as considering a youth
laureate position. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

7. Staff Check-In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates
6:10 pm (1:04:45)
Staff shared about the Whipsmart Creative Economy study and focus groups, and potential
event on March 5 at Alma Mater. Asia Tail has transition out of the Office of Arts & Cultural
Vitality and is now staff at Native Action Network. Contracts are in progress for Arts Projects
funding.

b. Public Art Updates
6:17 pm (1:11:03)
Staff shared about the following projects: Public Art Reaching Community (PARC) application
deadline is February 10, 2020; temporary art installation at the Tacoma Emergency Micro
Shelter site; update on the Water Wall project with Pierce Transit; traffic box wraps near
the casino for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians; maintenance on the neon in the Tacoma
Dome the week of February 17; and an art exhibit by Dionne Bonner at the Spaceworks
gallery.
8. Report Back
   a. Advocacy Reports
      There were no items.

   b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended
      Commissioners shared arts events and venues they attended, upcoming events, or events they have been involved with including: the Seattle Asian Art Museum opening and Monkeyshines.

   c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration
      A Commissioner asked for clarification on how to respond to people who want feedback on their funding applications. Commissioners are encouraged to point such inquiries to staff.

   Meeting adjourned at 06:30 pm (1:24:35)