

**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: February 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:*

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

*City Staff Present:*

Chevi Chung  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Rebecca Solverson  
Lisa Jaret

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Michael Kula, *Chair*

**1. Call to Order**

**5:04 pm (00:13)**

Vice Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order. Vice Chair Sanchez 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 dxwəstəhlils 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

(00:46)

Chair Michael Kula had an excused absence.

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

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Seconded: Commissioner Scott

Motion: Carried

## 3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping

(01:43)

Vice Chair Sanchez welcomed new Arts Commissioners Ton Williams and Heidi Wygle. Vice Chair Sanchez reminded Commissioners to share about how they'd like to be addressed during Commission meetings.

## 4. Public Comment

(05:50)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

## 5. Discussion/Updates

### a. Council Coffee – Overview, Goals, Approaches, and Sign-Ups

(07:00)

Vice Chair Sanchez introduced and gave some background about Council Coffees. Staff gave an overview of the City Council districts and what districts each City Council member represents. Staff gave an overview of the purpose of the meetings, how to sign up for the meetings, the meeting format, and the support documents including an outline of talking points and the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality's annual report, which covers items happening in each council district. Commissioners shared out about their past experiences and tips for Council Coffee meetings.

### b. Arts Commission Annual Retreat Objectives

(29:13)

Staff gave an update about the retreat scheduling survey and provided an overview of the format for the retreat sessions. Commissioners shared ideas for potential retreat session topics including:

- Understanding the process that artists go through for opportunities – finding out about opportunities, applying, the selection process, contracting, doing the work, and follow-up and engagement between artists and the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality in the long-term.
- Developing a calendar of funded public programming and marketing/promotion/documentation of programming.
- Developing a list of things the Commission wants to see happen in Tacoma – visioning.
- Discussion around space for artists in all disciplines to create and share their work – exhibit and performing spaces, space to share digital media, etc.
- Understanding what's on the horizon for the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality and what types of projects the Commission will be working on going forward.
- Reviewing ArtFull Tacoma and looking at what needs to be adapted, updated, or deleted going forward.

### c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee

(54:52)

Commissioners Fernandez-Llamazares, Shakoor, and Kall attended the January Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee meeting and shared out about what was covered at the meeting including an overview of what the DEI subcommittee has worked on in the past and what some of its accomplishments have been, looking at areas that need attention and some possible solutions, and brainstorming a list of topics to

discuss with the subcommittee in future meetings. The next DEI subcommittee meeting on February 16 will include a presentation by Drena Sellers from the City of Tacoma's Office of Equity and Human Rights.

## 6. Staff Check-In

### a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

(1:00:23)

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Tacoma Poet Laureate – Nine applications were received; a panel will review and make their recommendation for the next poet laureate at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Pass the Torch will be held on April 12, 6 - 7 pm at Tacoma Public Library's Moore Branch. At this event, Lydia K. Valentine will welcome in the new Tacoma Poet Laureate.
- Resources for Creatives – Staff gave an overview of plans for 2023 programming and invited Commissioners to suggest topics for panel discussions and workshops.
- Arts Commissioner Spotlights on social media – Staff is wanting to feature each Commissioner on social media accounts over the course of 2023 and will follow up with Commissioners for content.
- Community Arts Projects Funding – Staff is writing up funding contracts and projects are happening.
- Tacoma Artists Initiative Program Funding - 46 applications were received with funding available for 24 projects. The panel review will be on February 23 and Commissioners Brown and Neal will bring the panel's recommendations to the Commission meeting on March 13.
- Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) Study - A total of 734 audience surveys have been collected to date. More AEP volunteers are needed for audience surveys. AEP organization surveys will begin in February.
- 2022 Annual Report - Staff is working to complete the 2022 report by the end of March.

### b. Public Art Updates

(1:13:59)

Staff gave an update about the Madison School tree planting and shared an article from Crosscut about the event. Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Mall Area Plan and traffic box wraps opportunities. Staff asked for panelist volunteers. Staff gave an update about the East 64<sup>th</sup> Street project and the streetscape planning effort.

### c. Tacoma Creates

(1:29:33)

Staff gave an overview of the 2023-2024 Tacoma Creates funding cycle; Tacoma Creates Impact Funding applications are due on March 27 and Comprehensive Organizational Support applications are due on March 13. Funding application workshops are available for all applicants and application support through Communities Rise is available for organizations with budgets under \$200,000 and whose work centers communities that are most impacted by systemic oppression.

## 7. Report Back

### a. Advocacy Reports

(1:32:48)

There were no items.

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

(1:32:48)

Commissioners gave updates about projects they have attended or been involved with including: a concert at Real Art Tacoma; the Black Art and Black Artists exhibition and artist talks at Tacoma Community College;

weekly Arts, Heritage, Culture, and Science Legislative funding caucus meetings; and *Po Boy Tango* at Tacoma Little Theatre.

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration**

**(1:32:48)**

There were no items.

**8. Adjourn**

**6:42 pm (1:38:05)**

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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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