

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: February 14, 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
Heather Conklin
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Natasha Lane
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Angela Weaver
Joe Williams

City Staff Present:

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

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Michael Kula

1. Call to Order

5:04 pm (00:00)

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.

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

(00:37)

Commissioner Kula had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Samuel asked for a motion to approve the February agenda as well as the minutes from the January 10th meeting.

There was a motion: "I will make a motion to approve the agenda."

Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Seconded: Commissioner Sanchez

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping

(02:30)

Chair Maestas asked about interest in having a selection of funded artists and organizations give a brief presentation at each month's meeting to inform the work of the Commission. Commissioners were interested in proceeding with this idea. Commissioners asked questions and discussed the technical aspects.

Chair Maestas opened up a discussion around how to refer to each other respectfully at Commission meetings. Commissioners discussed individual preferences and determined a naming convention for use on Zoom to indicate who would like to be called by their first or last name and who would like to have "Commissioner" added as a title.

Chair Maestas led a check-in with gratitude sharing.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

(35:58)

There was no public comment.

5. Discussion/Updates

a. Council Coffee – Overview, Role Playing and Sign-ups

(36:49)

Commissioner Sanchez gave an overview of the Council Coffee meetings as an opportunity to update councilmembers on art projects happening in their district. Commissioners use the annual report document as a reference point for the meetings. Commissioner Sanchez recommended choosing about three talking points focused on what is happening in that particular councilmember's district, making a connection to any particular overlap they have with that work, and providing general updates about the Commission.

Commissioners began to sign up for Council Coffee meetings.

b. Arts Commission Annual Retreat Objectives

(53:55)

Staff encouraged Commissioners to provide their availability for retreat sessions. The first retreat session will be focused on getting to know each other with breakout rooms for small group discussions. The second retreat session will be a deeper dive into a topic that is to be determined by the Commission. Staff gave an update about the Artfull Tacoma strategy document to consider for the retreat. Staff shared a list of potential retreat topics including:

- Revisiting ArtFull Tacoma to refine, add to, and strengthen the plan for the next 5 years
- Visioning – big picture ideas and goals
- How to better understand what local artists need
- Programming that focuses on healing and connection
- Discussing arts and wellness and the role of arts within healing/revitalization
- Establishing a "covenant agreement" that describes who the Commission strives to be

- How are the arts and artists continuing to adapt as the pandemic continues? What can we do to assist in this adaptation?

Commissioners discussed and shared their ideas around these potential topics. Staff will narrow in on a topic, based on the ideas shared in the meeting and will bring it back to the full Commission.

c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee

(1:26:00)

Commissioner Sanchez gave an update about the work of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee. The subcommittee has been identifying values-based behaviors needed for participation on the Commission. The current list includes:

- Be a safe space maker
- Be yourself
- Practice empathy and respect
- Speak and share responsibly
- Be willing to experience discomfort and accept differences
- Hold each other accountable with care, being mindful of intentions and context
- Be open to learning; learning is iterative and perfection isn't achievable
- Be a support for each other

The subcommittee also discussed inviting artists and organizations to present at Commission meetings and modeling iterative learning together at meetings.

6. Staff Check-In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

(1:32:12)

Staff shared about the Gift Policy and how it will be considered, along with the Deaccession and Accession Policies, at the upcoming subcommittee meetings.

Councilmember Hines is the 2022 Council Liaison for the Commission and Councilmember Blocker is the Alternate.

Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) including mid-project meetings and the TAIP cohort meeting, which provides an opportunity for Commissioners to meet TAIP artists and learn more about their projects. Staff asked for volunteers to sign up for TAIP mid-project meeting slots.

Staff gave an update about the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality's policy to provide honorariums to community members serving on panels.

Staff gave an update about the relaunch of taping for the artTown show on TV Tacoma.

Staff gave an update about professional development opportunities including the upcoming "Marketing for Creatives" workshop and that a recording of the "Building Credit and a Budget for Creatives" workshop is available on the City's website.

Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Arts Month subcommittee; the next subcommittee meeting will be on March 11.

b. Public Art Updates

(1:46:54)

Staff gave an update about the Black Lives Matter mural project including community surveys, communications with focus groups, and the project website.

Staff shared about the temporary moving of some artwork on the Prairie Line Trail to accommodate the City’s current storm water project on-site.

Staff gave an update about the February 26th dedication of Dionne Bonner’s youth memorial mural at the Eastside Community Center.

Staff gave an update about the Audubon Society’s workshops to paint bird boxes for Oak Tree Park.

Staff gave update about the community engagement projects in support of the Greening the Tacoma Mall Area initiative.

Staff shared about the McKinley Hill Neighborhood Planning project and how staff is supporting some art elements in collaboration with Spaceworks Tacoma.

Sound Transit will present an update about Kenji Stoll’s artwork for the light rail extension at the March Commission meeting.

c. Tacoma Creates

(1:54:40)

Staff gave an update including the availability of Tacoma Creates funding guidelines, application deadlines, application workshops, and the collaboration with Communities Rise to offer assistance to eligible organizations in applying for funding.

7. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

(1:58:18)

There were no items.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

(1:58:34)

Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares met with Marit Berg about her TAIP project and shared how Marit has been able to do some experimental work, which will be installed at the gallery at Tacoma Community College.

Commissioner Lane met with Tamiko Nimura about her TAIP project and shared how Tamiko was able to purchase new software and send her book out for review.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(2:03:33)

There were no items.

8. Adjourn

7:07 pm (2:03:46)

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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