

## Members

Kenya Shakoor, Chair  
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair  
Aleks Aurelion  
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  
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.



## Special Meeting

**Date:** April 7, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Location:** Virtual and UWT Tacoma, Cherry Parkes, Room 325

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### *Commission Members in Attendance:*

Kenya Shakoor, Chair  
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair  
Aleks Aurelion  
Katie Dean  
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Michael Kula  
Wade Neal  
Derek Nunn  
Jeanette Sanchez  
Jes Takla  
Joe Williams

### *City Staff Present:*

Daniel Garcia  
Ricky Reyes  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila

### *Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Connie Behe  
Heidi Wygle

### *Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares

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## 1. Call to Order

2:13 pm

Chair Shakoor called the meeting to order.

## 2. Consent Agenda

2:14 pm

Commissioners Behe and Wygle had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

There was a motion: "I would move to approve the consent agenda."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Neal

Motion: Carried

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items 2:15 pm**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**4. Welcome 2:16 pm**

Commissioners Gilmore and Takla welcomed everyone and shared that the purpose of the retreat was to connect and learn about each other; build trust amongst commissioners and staff in a safe space; do some collective visioning, dreaming, and ideation; understand each other's spheres of influence; and leave with an action.

**5. Land Acknowledgement and Quiet Reflection 2:17 pm**

Staff shared the Land Acknowledgement:

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəʔ txwəl tiit ʔa čəʔ ʔal tə swatx'ix'ixwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxwəsətəʔlils g'wəl 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.

Staff led an exercise in quietly reflecting on the land we are on.

**6. Show and Tell: Sharing Our Passions 2:22 pm**

Commissioner and staff took turns introducing themselves and sharing an arts, culture, heritage, science, or community-minded passion they have.

**7. Exquisite Tree Exercise 2:56 pm**

Commissioners and staff broke into four small groups, each focused on one of these purposes of the Commission:

- Promote and support a diversity of arts and cultural opportunities for our citizens to experience (TMC 1.28A.030b)
- Create a unique identity and sense of place through the development and stewardship of public art. (TMC 1.28A.030e)
- Fund programs that encourage artistic excellence and expand exposure to a wide variety of art forms. (TMC 1.28A.030f)
- Foster the development of the local arts community, encouraging an environment for the success of working individual artists. (TMC 1.28A.030g)

Groups worked collaboratively to create a tree image and discussed these prompt questions as they related to their purpose:

- What elements are essential for long-term success? (Roots)
- What are we currently doing in this area? (Trunk)
- How can we further develop these ideas? (Branches)
- What are we seeing or can expect to see as a result of our work (Leaves and flowers)
- What are new ideas that we might develop and nurture? (Seeds)

## 8. Root Care: Advocacy

3:30 pm

Groups brainstormed personalized advocacy statements that can be used during Council Coffee meetings. Statements tied to Council Priorities and focused on these foundational needs:

- Public Art Staffing
- Arts Funding Budget
- Tacoma Creates Reauthorization
- Tacoma Public Utilities' Participation in the 1% for Art program

## 9. Wrap Up and Reflection

3:50 pm

Groups shared out some highlights from their discussions and some personalized advocacy statements they developed.

Some of the ideas shared include:

- An increase in arts funding will support being in a community and bringing people together, improving connections and safety. Artist funding opens pathways to diverse opportunities for professional practice.
- Public Art encourages gathering and provides a means to welcome people in. Public art also promotes traffic and pedestrian safety; public art saves lives.
- Sharing testimonials/quotes from some of the organizations funded through Tacoma Creates to show the tangible impact this funding is having in Tacoma.

## 10. Adjourn

4:15 pm

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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.



To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Tacoma Arts Commission staff at (253) 591-5191. TTY or speech to speech users please dial (253) 581-5820 to connect with Washington Relay Services.

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