

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.



Date: April 8, 2024

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

Commission Members in Attendance:

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

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Lisa Jaret
Ricky Reyes
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila
Carol Wolfe

Guest Presenters:

Teruko Nimura

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Connie Behe
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Aleks Aurelion

1. Call to Order

5:04 pm (00:04)

Chair Shakoor called the meeting to order. Chair Shakoor recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

ʔuk'wədiitəb 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 (00:38)

Commissioners Behe and Fernandez-Llamazares had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the April meeting as well as the minutes from the March meeting.

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

Motion: Commissioner Wygle

Seconded: Commissioner Joe Williams

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:40)

Chair Shakoor, Vice Chair Brown, and staff met with Councilmember Scott to discuss the role of Council Liaison on the Commission. Councilmember Scott will have a quarterly standing time on the Commission agenda starting in June.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (03:45)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations

a. Environmental Services Artist in Residence (04:11)

Staff introduced Teruko Nimura, who is the new Artist in Residence for the City of Tacoma's Environmental Services Department. Teruko shared samples representing her past personal artistic practice and public art projects. Teruko shared about her work so far as Artist in Residence. Teruko's initial projects include leading a hands-on activity at the Sustainability Expo and creating custom wraps for collection receptacles for Tidy Up Tacoma work.

Commissioners provided comments.

6. Action Items

a. Council Advocacy Items (30:15)

Chair Shakoor introduced the opportunity Commissioners have to advocate Council for needs to support the cultural community. Commissioners shared things they want to advocate for, and staff provided background information relevant to these items:

- Increased budget for arts funding would allow larger funding awards to be distributed through current and/or additional funding programs so creatives can be paid living wages for their work and so creatives can access physical spaces to create work.
- Public art staffing, inclusive of the transition of a current temporary position to an ongoing position and the addition of one new Public Art Project Manager position, to be able to continue managing public art projects throughout Tacoma
- Tacoma Creates reauthorization – The Commission supports the reauthorization of Tacoma Creates.
- Tacoma Public Utilities' participation in the 1% for Art program

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

Chair Shakoor asked for a motion to approve an advocacy item in support of public art staffing, specifically to renew Ricky Reyes position and add one additional Public Art Project Manager position.

There was a motion: "I would move that we support this as one of the advocacy items we talk to in our Council Coffees."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Second: Commissioner Hoppe

Motion: Carried

Chair Shakoor asked for a motion to approve an advocacy item in support of an increased arts funding budget.

There was a motion: "I move to increase the arts funding budget."

Motion: Commissioner Takla

Second: Commissioner Wygle

Motion: Carried

Chair Shakoor asked for a motion to approve an advocacy item in support of councilmanic reauthorization of Tacoma Creates.

There was a motion: "I move for that."

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Second: Commissioner Nunn

Motion: Carried

Chair Shakoor asked for a motion to approve an advocacy item in support of Tacoma Public Utilities' participation in the 1% for Art program.

There was a motion: "I motion to advocate for 1% for Art participation."

Motion: Commissioner Wygle

Second: Commissioner Dean

Motion: Carried

7. Discussion/Updates

a. Division Manager Position

(59:55)

David Ingram has accepted the position of Division Manager for the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division. She will start on May 20.

b. Funding Subcommittee Update

(1:01:55)

The Funding Subcommittee has met twice so far and has covered:

- Looking at the Tacoma Municipal Code for requirements of Commission funding programs and ways to address needs while working within the code.
- Contracts for cultural services require public benefit with public funds
- Discussion of various needs of creatives
- Looking at other City funding programs to see how they complement Commission funding and where there are gaps

The subcommittee will start working on:

- Identifying general gaps/needs in the Commission’s existing funding programs
- Looking at current Commission funding programs and ways to adjust them to address gaps/needs identified

c. 2023 Annual Report Overview (1:06:05)

Staff shared the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division’s 2023 Annual Report, highlighting the Arts Overview and ‘Impact by Council District’ sections, inclusion of quantitative and qualitative data through quotes and photos, links to videos, an overview of the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 study, a panelist section, and a Tacoma Creates overview with a link to Tacoma Creates’ full report. Commissioners discussed.

d. Council Coffee – Role Playing and Sign-ups (1:15:33)

Staff gave an update about the Council Coffee meeting format. Commissioners Neal and Nunn, and City staff Carol Wolfe walked through a mock role-play of a Council Coffee meeting. Staff asked Commissioners to sign-up for Council Coffee meetings.

8. Staff Check-In (1:43:02)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Staff is working on proposals for the 2025-26 Arts budget in the City’s General Fund
- TAIP artist cohort meeting on April 24
- TAIP mid-project meetings:
 - Commissioner Joe Williams met with Vernon Ng
 - Commissioner Hoppe met with Cassio Vianna
- Professional development workshop for artists on May 4
- artTown segment featuring Nichole Turner released with two more segments in the works
- Social media share out about artists in residence and the Tacoma Mall Area Art Plan visioning tour
- Planning for Tacoma Arts Month

b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Melanie’s Park opening on April 12
- Working with Environmental Services on a mural for the Metro Parks marina south of Owen Beach
- Potential upcoming public art project on Hilltop with Tacoma Housing Authority
- Two upcoming wall murals for Environmental Services as part of the *If It Hits The Ground, It Hits The Sound!* campaign
- Natalie Dupille will start as the Public Works Artist in Residence on April 16
- Eastside Community Center mural by Tiffany Hammonds is completed and will be installed soon
- David Long and Jorge Garcia are installing the D Street underpass mural
- Nofo Porter will be installing a mural this summer at S. Tacoma & Union
- Contracting is underway for the Stewart intersection murals project with Perry Porter

c. Tacoma Creates

Staff shared out about the application and review status of Comprehensive Organizational Support and Impact funding programs, the upcoming JEDI film series at The Grand Cinema, and capacity building work with funded and non-funded organizations.

9. Report Back

(01:57:30)

a. Advocacy Reports

There were no advocacy reports.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

Commissioners shared about events they have attended or been involved with including:

- Opening of the Broadway Gallery
- Caribbean Queens Festival
- Film screening by Donovan Wilson at The Grand Cinema
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

10. Adjourn

7:09 pm (02:04:52)

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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