

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
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: April 11, 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
Michael Kula
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams

City Staff Present:

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

Guest Presenters:

Michael Haeflinger

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Angela Weaver

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.

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiif puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłiils 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

(00:41)

Commissioners Stump, Neal, Weaver, Pew, and Sanchez had excused absences. Commissioner Stump was able to join the meeting.

Vice Chair Samuel asked for a motion to approve the April agenda as well as the minutes from the March 14 and 26 meetings.

There was a motion: "I will make a motion."

Motion: Commissioner Scott

Seconded: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping

(01:58)

Chair Maestas asked Commissioners for their reflections on the March 26 retreat.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

(13:19)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations

(14:19)

a. Fundee Highlight

Michael Haeflinger, Executive Director of Write253, a 2022 Community Arts Projects funding recipient gave an overview about the Line Break Press community printing project. Michael shared images about the provisional press and printing from Lego and how this project is a way to go into the community with the work of Write253. Michael gave an update about the artist in residence program for teens, which will take place over the course of 2022, as well as the series of GatherINK workshops. There was a discussion between the Commissioners and Michael.

b. Greening the Tacoma Mall Area Engagement Projects

(33:00)

Staff gave an update about the Greening the Tacoma Mall Area Engagement Project led by artists Alex Schelhammer and Teruko Nimura. Staff gave an overview about how the City of Tacoma's Urban Forestry Program selected two artists to engage community in "greening" the Tacoma Mall Area, about how each artist will present a creative project that inspires community members to plant and maintain trees, rain gardens, and backyard habitats. The project goals are to improve human and environmental health in the neighborhood and create better communication between the City and the neighborhood for ongoing "greening" efforts.

c. Public Art Program Overview

(43:59)

Staff gave an overview about the City's public art program, specifically the program goals and a high-level overview of what has been accomplished and installed since 2017. Staff gave an update about the 1% for Art funding, which was reinstated by City Council in 2000. One percent of construction dollars for capital projects are set aside for public art. Art projects are usually tied to capital projects and usually need to have a permanent component. There are over 500 artworks in the Municipal Art Collection. The Arts Commission oversees the program, which includes new acquisitions and collection management. The program also includes management of public art for other entities and other City funding outside the 1% for Art program. Staff gave a high-level overview of the connections between Public Art and ArtFull Tacoma.

6. Discussion/Updates

a. 2021 Annual Report Overview

(01:09:06)

Staff gave an update about the upcoming City Council Coffee meetings, volunteer signups, and an overview of the 2021 Annual Report. Staff highlighted the sections of the report related to arts funding, public art, arts programs and activities, Tacoma Creates, and the 'Impact by Council District' section.

b. Arts & Economic Prosperity Study Overview

(1:16:01)

Staff gave an update about the Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) study, which is a national study conducted every five years to document the economic impact that non-profit organizations and their audiences have locally and nationally. The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality has participated in AEP in 2006, 2011, 2016, and now in 2022. The findings from the AEP study help with arts and culture advocacy.

c. ArtFull Tacoma

(1:32:22)

Staff gave an update about the 2020 City Council Priorities and ArtFull Tacoma. Staff shared the 2020 City Council Priorities of Health, Housing, Access, Safety, Livable Wage Jobs, Belief and Trust in Government, and Anti-Racism and Equity.

7. Staff Check-In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

(1:48:36)

Staff gave an update about the upcoming Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) cohort meeting on April 27. Staff gave an update about Tacoma Arts Month including the monthly subcommittee meeting, partnering with Metro Parks Tacoma for the Kaleidoscope Opening Party on October 5 at the STAR Center, and that the Kaleidoscope Planning Committee will meet on May 13. Staff gave an update about the Washington Lawyers for the Arts professional development workshop near the end of May.

b. Public Art Updates

(1:50:33)

Staff gave an update about Earth Day event on April 22 at the Canoe Landing site.

c. Tacoma Creates

(1:51:41)

Staff gave an update about the Participatory Budgeting project possibilities in East and South Tacoma. Staff gave an update about the program to fund free bus transportation for Title 1 Tacoma Public Schools students to attend Tacoma Creates funded programming.

8. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

(1:54:24)

There were no items.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

(1:54:35)

There were no items.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(1:54:49)

Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares posed the question of how the Commission can make more room for Global Majority residents to participate in and have more input in the work the Commission is doing.

9. Adjourn

7:01 pm (1:57:04)

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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