

**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  
Joe Williams

**Staff**

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist  
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manage

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Tacoma Venues and Events Department



**Date:** May 9, 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](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes).

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Benjamin Maestas III, Chair  
Olivia Samuel, Vice Chair  
Jasmine Brown  
Heather Conklin  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Wade Neal  
Elizabeth Pew  
Jeanette Sanchez  
Jamika Scott  
Alejandra Villeda

*City Staff Present:*

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

*Guest Presenters:*

JD Davis  
Dionne Bonner  
Kenya Adams

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Michael Kula  
MaryMikel Stump  
Joe Williams

**1. Call to Order**

**5:06 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 tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsəłhils 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**

**(00:30)**

Commissioners Kula, Stump, and Williams had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Samuel asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11 meeting and the agenda for the May 9 meeting.

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Commissioner Conklin

Seconded: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Motion: Carried

Vice Chair Samuel asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 30 meeting.

There was a motion: "I'll move."

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Seconded: Commissioner Sanchez

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:54)**

Chair Maestas led a check-in of gratitude with the Commissioners.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (09:34)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Presentations (11:45)**

**a. Fundee Highlight**

Staff gave an introduction to JD Davis of Building Youth Through Music/WayOut Kids, a 2022 Community Arts Projects funding recipient. JD gave an overview about the work of WayOut Kids and updates on their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Gone Digital program. Staff shared a Building Youth Through Music/WayOut Kids project video. There was a discussion between the Commissioners and JD.

**6. Action Items**

**a. Black Lives Matter Mural (29:22)**

Staff gave an update about the BLM Mural, a collaboration with the Human Rights Commission and Tacoma Art Museum. Dionne Bonner, Lead Artist, gave a presentation about BLM Mural project including an update about the status of virtual survey collection, focus groups, planning and development meetings, youth engagement, website intake forms, Instagram presence, project poster distribution, design review, painting and community activity planning, and the project timeline. Dionne shared the design proposal for the BLM Mural. There was a discussion between Commissioners and Dionne.

Chair Maestas asked for a motion to approve the direction of the Black Lives Matter Mural.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve the direction of this Black Lives Matter Mural, I say this because hopefully this will be the first of many and that we accept it into the collection so we can maintain it."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Brown

Motion: Carried

**b. Cancellation of July meeting (1:10:05)**

Chair Maestas introduced the proposal to cancel the July 2022 Tacoma Arts Commission meeting. Staff gave an update about the history of canceling July meetings as a summer break.

There was a motion: "I'll make a motion that we cancel the July Arts Commission meeting for summer break."

Motion: Vice Chair Samuel

Second: Commissioner Scott

Motion: Carried

## 7. Discussion/Updates

### a. Arts Commission Retreat Wrap-Up (1:12:15)

Chair Maestas encouraged Commissioners to share their thoughts from the April 30 retreat session. Staff shared a white board screen with Commissioners to capture ideas for continuing the conversation. Commissioners discussed ideas that were of interest.

### b. 'Council Coffee' Meeting Feedback (1:19:43)

Staff gave an update about the last six Council Coffee meetings. Commissioners gave updates about their meetings. Chair Maestas and Commissioner Brown gave an update about their meeting with Deputy Mayor Ushka. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares and Chair Maestas gave an update about their meeting with Council Member Rumbaugh. Vice Chair Samuel and Commissioner Scott gave an update about their meeting with Council Member Daniels. Commissioner Sanchez and Commissioner Pew gave an update about their meeting with Council Member Hines. Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares gave an update about their meeting with Council Member Blocker.

### c. Arts & Economic Prosperity Study Audience Surveys (1:29:49)

Staff gave an overview of the Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) study, which is being conducted by Americans for the Arts. The study measures the economic impact of the non-profit arts and culture industry, specifically full-time equivalent jobs, household income, and local and state government revenue. The final report will be released in September 2023 and will be used as an advocacy tool. Staff asked the Commission for volunteers to collect audience surveys.

### d. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (1:44:53)

Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares gave an update about the April Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion subcommittee meeting including the review and discussion of applicant and panel demographics data and outreach strategies for arts opportunities.

## 8. Staff Check-In

### a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates (1:46:48)

Staff gave an update about Commissioner Weaver's retirement and resignation from the Tacoma Arts Commission. Staff gave an update about how Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality staff are starting to work hybrid. Staff gave an update about the open applications for 2022 AMOCAT Arts Awards and Tacoma Studio Tour.

### b. Public Art Updates (1:48:48)

Staff gave an update about the Hilltop Streetscape project along MLK Way. Staff gave an update about the popup forest at the Tacoma Mall with the Tacoma Tree Foundation and Puyallup Tribe's Earth Day event. A student intern will be reviewing the Municipal Art Collection this summer.

**c. Tacoma Creates**

**(1:51:34)**

Staff gave an update about the May 13<sup>th</sup> deadline for voting on the Tacoma Creates Participatory Budgeting projects in 98404 and 98409.

**9. Report Back**

**a. Advocacy Reports**

**(1:53:07)**

There were no items.

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

**(1:53: 20)**

There were no updates.

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration**

**(1:53:30)**

There were no items.

**10. Adjourn**

**7:00 pm (1:53:49)**

---

**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.



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.

---