

**Members**

Michael Kula, Chair  
Jeanette Sanchez, Vice Chair  
Jasmine Brown  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Wade Neal  
Derek Nunn  
Jamika Scott  
Kenya Shakoor  
MaryMikel Stump  
Alejandra Villeda  
Joe Williams  
Ton Williams  
Heidi Wygle  
John Hines, City Council Liaison  
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

**Staff**

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

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Community & Economic Development Dept.



**Date: June 12, 2023**

**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](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes).

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Michael Kula, *Chair*  
Jeanette Sanchez, *Vice Chair*  
Jasmine Brown  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Wade Neal  
Derek Nunn  
Kenya Shakoor  
Alejandra Villeda  
Joe Williams  
Ton Williams  
Heidi Wygle

*City Staff Present:*

Naomi Strom-Avila  
Rebecca Solverson  
Amy McBride

*Guest Presenters:*

Kristina Batiste

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

MaryMikel Stump  
Jamika Scott

**1. Call to Order**

**5:06 pm (00:00)**

Chair Kula called the meeting to order. Chair Kula 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 dxʷəsətəłiils 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 (00:36)**

Commissioners Scott and Stump had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Sanchez asked for a motion to approve the June meeting agenda as well as the minutes from the May meeting.

There was a motion: “So moved.”

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Seconded: Chair Kula

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair’s Report/Housekeeping (01:41)**

Commissioner Kall has resigned from the Commission.

Commissioners shared their gratitude for Amy McBride’s service. Amy spoke about her time of service at the City and to the Tacoma Arts Commission.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (14:26)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Discussion/Updates**

**a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee – Labor Acknowledgement (15:43)**

Commissioner Shakoor gave a report out about the work the DEI subcommittee has started, with the facilitation of Chevi Chung, in crafting a Labor Acknowledgement. The hope is that the Labor Acknowledgement will help people understand the legacies of slavery, the lack of recourse, and disparities in expectations for Black and Brown people. The acknowledgement provides an opportunity to honor the labor and contributions of Black and Brown staff and commissioners. The subcommittee would like more time and space to discuss and develop the Labor Acknowledgement and invite more involvement from Commissioners in the process.

Commissioners and staff shared comments including how a Labor Acknowledgement instills a sense of pride and being seen, whether a retreat session could be set up for the full commission to work on developing the Labor Acknowledgement together, interest in learning more about Labor Acknowledgements, when and how a Labor Acknowledgement is used, and the need to take time for reflection.

In addition to current DEI subcommittee members, Commissioners Brown, Hoppe, Fernandez-Llamazares, Neal, Ton Williams, Kula, and Nunn volunteered to continue with this work.

**6. Presentations**

**a. Fundee Highlight (34:25)**

Staff introduced Kristina Batiste, who received 2023-24 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding. Kristina shared about the ongoing salon series she is co-curating and presenting with Reid Ozaki, focused on ceramic art, culture, and history of the Pacific Northwest. Commissioners shared feedback, comments, and questions. Kristina shared a new piece of her pottery, created in honor of Juneteenth.

**7. Discussion/Updates**

**a. ‘Council Coffee’ Meeting Report Out (01:10:14)**

Commissioners gave updates about their meetings with City Council members:

- Councilmember Hines – meeting with Vice Chair Sanchez and Commissioner Hoppe
- Councilmember Daniels – meeting with Commissioners Hoppe and Nunn
- Mayor Woodards – meeting with Commissioners Nunn and Stump
- Councilmember Ushka – meeting with Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares
- Councilmember Diaz – meeting with Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares
- Councilmember Bushnell – meeting with Commissioners Fernandez-Llamazares and Shakoor
- Councilmember Rumbaugh – meeting with Commissioner Shakoor and Chair Kula
- Deputy Mayor Walker – meeting with Commissioner Neal and Chair Kula
- Councilmember Blocker – the meeting scheduled with Commissioners Brown and Stump didn't happen

Topics covered included an interest in what is happening in their districts and how to get more arts there, wanting more artists to seek funding from the City, an encouragement to advocate for more arts funding, the importance of art in placemaking, affordable housing, support for graffiti as art, art to share on visits to Sister Cities, the Commission's role with the transition of theater management, and the Commission's role in selection of the next Division Manager.

**b. Film Forum**

**(01:27:38)**

Amy McBride presented about the Tacoma Film Forum event hosted in May, which was set up to talk about the film industry as creative economy. Commissioners Nunn and Neal shared about their experiences in the discussion and the potential for the film industry locally. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

**c. Tacoma Arts Month and AMOCAT Arts Awards**

**(01:35:58)**

Applications for Arts at the Armory and the Tacoma Studio Tour are available now and due July 25. Nominations are being accepted now through July 30 for the 2023 AMOCAT Arts Awards. Categories are:

- Community Outreach by an Individual – Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual
- Community Outreach by an Organization – Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an organization
- Arts Patron – A community partner who significantly supports or contributes to the arts in Tacoma

Commissioners Wygle, Hoppe, and Sanchez volunteered to review Arts at the Armory and Tacoma Studio Tour applications.

**8. Staff Check-In**

**a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates**

**(01:43:50)**

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Tacoma Artists Initiative Program: staff and commissioners reported out on TAIP mid-projects meetings that took place in the past month. Staff invited Commissioners to sign up for TAIP mid-project meetings
- Arts & Economic Prosperity Study: A total of 946 audience surveys were collected in the past year. Organization surveys wrap up at the end of June and the final study will be available this fall
- The hiring process is underway for the Community Programs Specialist position

**b. Public Art Updates**

**(01:47:36)**

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Juneteenth celebration on June 15, which will offer another opportunity for community members to add a handprint on the BLM Mural
- Introduction of Elena Segura, who is interning with the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality this summer
- Ricky Reyes will be starting June 20 as the new Public Art Project Manager
- Releasing an opportunity to artists on the Mural Artist Roster for a mural at the South Tacoma library

**c. Tacoma Creates**

**(01:39:27)**

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Nearly \$5.6 million in funding has been awarded to 65 cultural organizations for the 2023-24 funding cycle
- Hiring process is underway for the Tacoma Creates Program Assistant position

**9. Report Back**

**a. Advocacy Reports**

**(01:51:50)**

There were no items.

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

**(01:54:30)**

Commissioners shared about events they have attended or been involved with including Barefoot Collective's dance performance in Wapato Park, Screaming Butterflies' production of Orlando, and Spaceworks Tacoma's Cachet fundraiser.

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration**

**(01:57:40)**

There were no items.

**10. Adjourn**

**7:03 pm (01:57:47)**

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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.



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