

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 Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality
Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: June 13, 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
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump

City Staff Present:

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

Guest Presenters:

Gerardo Peña
Nathaniel Wagoner

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams

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 tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłiis 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)

There were no excused absences.

Vice Chair Samuel called for a motion to approve the consent agenda that included the June 13 agenda and the minutes from the May 9 meeting.

There was a motion: "I move that we accept the agenda from last month and the meeting minutes."

Motion: Commissioner Conklin

Second: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (01:50)

Chair Maestas reminded Commissioners that the next meeting is on August 8. Chair Maestas led a check-in with Commissioners about work and volunteer capacity.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (16:46)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations (17:50)

a. Fundee Highlight

Staff introduced Gerardo Peña, better known as Periko the Artist. Gerardo is a 2021-22 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) funding recipient. Gerardo gave an update about his background and start as a public artist in Tacoma. Gerardo shared about his TAIP-funded mural near the entrance to the food pantry on the bottom floor of the First United Methodist Church and talked about his experience painting the mural and interacting with members of the community. There was a discussion about Gerardo's work.

6. Action Items

a. Park Plaza North Mural (40:29)

Staff introduced a proposal from Nathaniel Wagoner to paint a series of self-funded murals on the top floor of Park Plaza North, which is a publicly owned property. Nathaniel gave an overview of his background and the focus of the Empathy mural project, which he started in 2020. The proposal included several murals that Nathaniel would create and a second portion that would be a series of murals created by a curated group of artists. There were questions and discussion between Nathaniel and Commissioners.

There was a motion: "I move that we table the discussion and have the DEI subcommittee continue the discussion and bring back feedback to the group and also have Nathaniel and his group come back with more information based off of their selection criteria and how they're doing that equitably."

Motion: Chair Maestas

Second: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Discussion: There was a discussion about how tabling the entire discussion would delay the painting timeframe for the mural. Staff and Commissioners discussed options for timeline and review to allow Nathaniel the opportunity to start part of the mural immediately and hold on the curated portion of the mural for a later discussion.

There was an amendment: "I move to approve Nathaniel's work that he has presented, the portion that him and his group is doing, inviting him to come to this Thursday's DEI subcommittee to discuss further and we will vote on the remaining portion at our next meeting in August."

Amendment: Chair Maestas

Second: Commissioner Sanchez

Discussion: Commissioners discussed how the curated portion of the mural project could be done equitably. There were questions and discussion between Nathaniel and Commissioners.

Motion: Not carried (0 in favor, 11 opposed)

There was a motion: “I will make a motion that, if Nathaniel and his partner are willing, that we table it until the August meeting for a more comprehensive discussion of the whole project knowing that that one will take obviously a delay, most likely a year.”

Motion: Commissioner Kula

Second: Chair Maestas

Discussion: There was further discussion between Commissioners and Nathaniel.

Motion: Not carried (1 in favor, 10 opposed)

There was a motion: “I would like to move that we approve this proposal for the Empathy project, the portion that is Nathaniel and his partner, with the curation portion taken out of the proposal and revisited with support from the DEI committee.”

Motion: Commissioner Stump

Seconded: Commissioner Brown

Motion: Carried

b. PRIDE Barrier Mural

(1:56:40)

Staff presented Downtown On the Go’s proposal to work with The Mixx to paint a temporary mural on the jersey barrier wall at St. Helens & 6th Avenue and the pavers at the intersection of St. Helens & 7th Avenue for Pride month. Commissioners asked questions and discussed.

There was a motion: “I would like to move that we approve this project for PRIDE month and then we, as a group, take on how we are feeling about self-funded projects and how we can support groups to feel like they have the agency in the city to go to other groups and work on collaborations and partnerships.”

Motion: Commissioner Stump

Seconded: Commissioner Sanchez

Discussion: Commissioners and staff discussed.

Motion: Carried

7. Discussion/Updates

(2:11:40)

a. ‘Council Coffee’ Meeting Feedback

This agenda item was tabled.

b. Tacoma Arts Month and AMOCAT Arts Awards

Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Studio Tour; 54 eligible applications were received. Staff gave an update about the AMOCAT Arts Awards, asking Commissioners to submit their nominations and help spread the word about the nomination process. The deadline for AMOCAT Arts Awards nominations is July 31, 2022.

c. Retreat Themes

This agenda item was tabled.

d. Arts & Economic Prosperity Study

This agenda item was tabled.

e. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee

This agenda item was tabled.

8. Staff Check In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

This agenda item was tabled.

b. Public Art Updates

This agenda item was tabled.

c. Tacoma Creates

This agenda item was tabled.

9. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

This agenda item was tabled.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

This agenda item was tabled.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

This agenda item was tabled.

10. Adjourn

7:20 pm (2:16:05)

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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