

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: August 8, 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
Heather Conklin
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams

City Staff Present:

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

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Olivia Samuel, Vice Chair
Michael Kula
Jeanette Sanchez

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Jasmine Brown

1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:15)

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.

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiif puyaləpabš dxwəstəłiils 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)

Vice Chair Samuel and Commissioners Kula and Sanchez had an excused absence.

Chair Maestas called for a motion to approve the consent agenda that included the August 8 agenda and the minutes from the June 13 meeting.

There was a motion: "I move that we accept the agenda and the meeting minutes from June 13."

Motion: Commissioner Pew

Second: Commissioner Scott

Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report/Housekeeping

(01:54)

Chair Maestas encouraged Commissioners to volunteer for the Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) study and thanked Commissioners for volunteering at events. Chair Maestas reminded Commissioner to give an update about funded projects and arts events attended near the end of the meeting agenda. Chair Maestas led a check-in with Commissioners.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

(08:10)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Action Items

a. AMOCAT Arts Awards Nomination Review & Voting

(09:10)

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the nominees for the 2022 AMOCAT Arts Awards. Commissioners voted as follows:

Arts Patron	Vote
Grit City Magazine	9
Rebecca and Jack Benaroya	0

Community Outreach by an Organization	Round 1 Vote	Round 2 Vote
Art Battle Tacoma	0	0
Brooks Dental Studio	0	0
Real Art Tacoma	5	8
Spaceworks	5	1
Tacoma Light Trail	0	0

Community Outreach by an Individual	Vote
Anthony Dluzak	0
Curtis Ashby	0
Dave Wendleton	0
Erik Hanberg	0
Frances and Mario Lorenz	0
Jamie Kinoshita Brooks	0
Kristina Batiste	0
Lucien Vedego	0
Rosemary Ponnekanti	0
Roxann Murray	0

Steve La Berge	0
Tamiko Nimura	8
Thomas "Tom" Long	0

The 2022 AMOCAT Arts Award winners are:

Community Outreach by an Individual
Tamiko Nimura
Community Outreach by an Organization
Real Art Tacoma
Arts Patron
Grit City Magazine

Chair Maestas asked for a motion to approve the three nominees.

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Commissioner Neal

Seconded: Commissioner Conklin

Motion: Carried

6. Discussion/Updates

(1:06:25)

a. 'Council Coffee' Meeting Feedback

Staff gave an update about the Council Coffee meetings that were held in May and June. Council Member Walker met with Commissioners Sanchez and Kula. Council Member Bushnell met with Commissioner Neal and Vice Chair Samuel. Commissioner Neal gave an update about the meeting and how Council Member Bushnell is supportive of the Commission and would like to see more focus on the South Hosmer Street area.

b. Tacoma Arts Month Updates

(1:09:31)

Staff gave a status update on Tacoma Arts Month including the Proclamation at the September 27 City Council meeting with Chair Ben representing the Tacoma Arts Commission; Kaleidoscope opening party on October 5 at STAR Center; and the Tacoma Studio Tour on October 15 and 16 with 54 participating artists at 38 studios. There will also be Arts at the Armory on December 10 and 11. Staff asked for volunteers to help with Tacoma Arts Month materials distribution, staffing at the Kaleidoscope party, and support with digital promotion.

c. Arts & Economic Prosperity Study

(1:13:43)

Staff gave an update about the Arts & Economic Prosperity (AEP) study. During the first quarter, volunteers attended 9 community events and collected 208 audience surveys. Staff thanked Commissioners for volunteering at events and gave an update about the next set of events. The next step of the study involves compiling a list of all arts and culture organizations in Tacoma. The list will be used to inform the organizational survey portion of the study, which will happen in early 2023.

d. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee

(1:17:30)

Commissioner Neal gave an update about the work of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee including discussions around access to public space, meeting with Council Member Bushnell, ways to proactively plan for security at the BLM Mural project, updates to the Gift Policy, and the draft document with anti-racist transformation, equity, and legislation language.

e. Retreat Themes

(1:20:58)

Staff gave an update about the themes that came out of the Commission’s retreat session. Emerging themes included: Leadership Development and Empowerment, Optimizing Resources: Financial Services, Optimizing Resources: Services, Access & Equity, Visibility, and Policy & Procedure.

7. Staff Check In

(1:35:05)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff informed Commissioners that meetings will remain virtual for now but that they will eventually move to a hybrid format in the future. The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality is transitioning from the Tacoma Venues & Events Department to the Community & Economic Development Department.

Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Artists Initiative Project (TAIP) funding cohort meeting. Commissioner Conklin gave an update about her TAIP mid-project meeting with artist Chandler O’Leary. Commissioner Kula had a TAIP mid-project meeting with Rian Kelly.

The 2023 Community Arts Project funding guidelines will be reviewed by the DEI Subcommittee before going to the full Commission at the September meeting.

Twenty-four people registered for Dalisha Phillips’ upcoming professional development workshop, Keeping It Cool.

8. Public Art Updates

(1:42:19)

Staff asked for volunteers to sit on upcoming review panels for several projects including the Tacoma Mall area and the stormdrain mural project with Environmental Services. Staff is working with Public Works on a series of murals for areas heavily hit with graffiti and is seeking panelists. The BLM Mural project is wrapping up and there will be a celebration on August 31 in collaboration with Greentrike’s Back to School event. Staff gave an update about the Lushootseed concrete stamp project, featuring artwork by Chris Duenas.

9. Tacoma Creates

(1:47:42)

In the 2022-2023 Tacoma Creates funding cycle, 58 arts, culture, heritage, and science organizations were awarded \$4.7 million dollars in funding.

10. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

(1:48:43)

There were no advocacy reports.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

(1:48:54)

Commissioner Scott gave an update about attending Porch Fest. Commissioner Williams gave an update about Parable’s one-year anniversary and their work with literary and performing arts.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(1:51:05)

There were no future agenda items for consideration.

11. Adjourn

6:56 pm (1:51:20)

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.