

**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**

Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist  
Ricky Reyes, Public Art Project Manager  
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Program Manager  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality

Community & Economic Development Dept.



**Date: October 9, 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  
Sarah Jane Hoppe  
Derek Nunn  
Jamika Scott  
Kenya Shakoor  
MaryMikel Stump  
Alejandra Villeda  
Joe Williams  
Ton Williams  
Heidi Wygle

*City Staff Present:*

Daniel Garcia  
Ricky Reyes  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila

*Guest Presenters:*

Jennifer English

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Wade Neal

**1. Call to Order**

**5:05 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 tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit 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 (00:33)**

Commissioners Fernandez-Llamazares and Neal had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Sanchez asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the October meeting as well as the minutes from the September meeting.

There was a motion: "I make a motion to approve."

Motion: Commissioner Villeda

Seconded: Commissioner Nunn

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:05)**

Chair Kula shared the Tacoma Arts Month proclamation that City Council presented on October 3.

Commissioner Villeda announced that she has taken a job with the City of Tacoma's Office of Equity and Human Rights and will be resigning from the Commission after October 9.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (06:00)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Discussion/Updates**

**a. Commission Executive Committee Nominations (06:40)**

Chair Kula and Vice Chair Sanchez provided an overview of the Executive Committee Chair and Vice Chair positions and how Commissioners will vote on who should fill these positions for the 2024 calendar year at the November Commission meeting.

Chair Kula will be stepping down from the Chair position. Vice Chair Sanchez would like to be considered for the Chair position. Commissioners asked questions and were invited to submit additional nominations to staff by October 30. Staff will check with all nominees to determine if they want to be considered for the position(s).

**b. Tacoma Arts Month Updates and Feedback (18:54)**

Staff gave an overview of the Kaleidoscope opening party event and programming, sharing photos and talking about what worked well and things to work on for next year. Staff shared about the upcoming Tacoma Studio Tour on October 14 & 15 and Arts at the Armory on November 11 & 12. Commissioners volunteered to help with Arts at the Armory.

Commissioners provided feedback and reflection about Kaleidoscope and other Tacoma Arts Month programming including how to improve outreach and attendance, considerations for the day and time of programming, order of programming, and incentives to participation.

**c. Division Manager Recruitment (42:45)**

Commissioner Joe Williams presented on the recruitment process for the Division Manager. Commissioner Joe Williams, Michael Liang, Putter Bert, Chris Jordan, and Elisheba Johnson serve on the search committee. The job posting and the candidate profile are now live. The application closes on November 16 and the first round of interviews will happen in December. Commissioners asked questions.

## 6. Action Items

### a. Establishing a Public Art Work Plan Subcommittee

(50:37)

Staff presented about the need to establish a Public Art Work Plan Subcommittee to develop a public art work plan, in alignment with Tacoma Municipal Code 1.28B.080. The group would meet several times before the end of the year to develop a plan for 2024. After that, they could set periodic meetings. Commissioners Brown, Nunn, and Joe Williams volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

There was a motion: "I'd like to make a motion to establish a public art subcommittee."

Motion: Commissioner Brown

Second: Commissioner Shakoor

Commissioners discussed broadening the focus to public art overall vs. just the work plan.

Motion: Carried

## 7. Staff Check-In

(01:02:20)

### a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- 25 applications were received from community members who are interested in serving on the Tacoma Arts Commission. The Economic Development Committee of Council will conduct interviews on November 14.
- Community Arts Projects funding application workshop will be held on October 10 and applications are due October 30.
- National findings from the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 study will be released on October 12. The Tacoma study findings will be presented to Tacoma City Council at Study Session on October 24. Staff will share the findings with the Commission on November 13.
- Staff are participating in the City's Continuous Improvement process to assess issues and brainstorm possible solutions for contracting and payment processes for funding programs.

### b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Murals to be completed in November:
  - Schuster Underpass mural by Mary Mann
  - South Tacoma Library mural by Dionne Bonner
  - McKinley Intersection mural by Jorge Mota
  - M Street Underpass mural by David Long and Jorge Garcia
- Upcoming community engagement meetings around public art:
  - Skate-able City Designs Meeting on October 17
  - Water and Green Space Workshop for the Tacoma Mall area plan on October 26
  - KUOW's Soundside live taping on October 20
- Staff has met with WSDOT to discuss possibilities of integrating public art into WSDOT properties in Tacoma.

### c. Tacoma Creates

There were no updates.

## 8. Presentations

### a. Spaceworks Tacoma

(01:28:24)

Jennifer English, Spaceworks Tacoma’s Program Director and Incubator Coordinator, and Jasmine Brown, Spaceworks Tacoma’s Artscapes Coordinator, shared about the current work of Spaceworks Tacoma. Spaceworks is a program of the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce but is not funded by the Chamber. Spaceworks receives some funding from the City of Tacoma including a Community Development Block Grant to support micro enterprises; funding through Arts & Cultural Vitality to support administration and coordination with the Chamber; Tacoma Creates funding to support murals, Woolworth Windows installations, media galleries, education, and maintenance; and National Endowment for the Arts funding to support training for cohorts and the McKinley Neighborhood placemaking efforts.

Key initiatives for fiscal year 2024 include:

- Centering commercial property/space activation and the creative economy
- Mixing art and businesses in the Woolworth Windows
- Washington State History Museum gift shop partnership
- Supporting artists, start-ups, and existing alumni
- Increasing Incubator stipends
- More public art

Commissioners asked questions.

## 9. Report Back

(01:56:15)

### a. Advocacy Reports

There were no items.

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

Commissioners shared about events they have attended or been involved with including the Tacoma Film Festival and the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation’s Walk for Reconciliation Against Racism.

### c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

## 10. Adjourn

7:03 pm (01:58:48)

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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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