

**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  
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 Manage

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality

Community & Economic Development Dept.



**Date: November 13, 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  
Wade Neal  
Derek Nunn  
Jamika Scott  
Kenya Shakoor  
MaryMikel Stump  
Joe Williams  
Heidi Wygle

*City Staff Present:*

Daniel Garcia  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Lisa Jaret

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares

*Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Ton Williams

**1. Call to Order**

**5:07 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.

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 (00:31)**

Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares had an excused absence.

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

There was a motion: "I motion to approve the consent agenda."

Motion: Commissioner Shakoor

Seconded: Commissioner Wygle

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (01:46)**

Chair Kula and Commissioners congratulated Commissioner Scott on her win in the race for Tacoma City Council District 3 seat.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (03:26)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Action Items**

**a. Commission Executive Committee Elections (04:14)**

Commissioners voted on the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the 2024 calendar year. Vice Chair Sanchez and Commissioner Shakoor were nominated for Chair. Commissioners Brown and Shakoor were nominated for Vice Chair.

Commissioners voted for the Chair position as follows: Kenya Shakoor (6 votes) and Jeanette Sanchez (5 votes). Commissioners voted for the Vice Chair position as follows: Jasmine Brown (11 votes).

Chair Kula asked for a motion to accept Commissioner Shakoor for the 2024 Chair and Commissioner Brown for the 2024 Vice Chair positions.

There was a motion: "I will move to accept our new Chair and Vice Chair."

Motion: Vice Chair Sanchez

Second: Commissioner Joe Williams

Motion: Carried

**b. Sound Transit Artwork Donation (23:55)**

Staff shared Sound Transit's proposal to donate to the City of Tacoma's Municipal Art Collection the "Theater Bills" public artwork, created in 2003 by Fernanda D'Agostino, that were recently removed from the Theater District Link Light Rail Station. The pieces will be stored by the City of Tacoma until an appropriate location becomes available. Commissioners asked questions.

There was a motion: "I motion to accept this donation into the collection."

Motion: Commissioner Hoppe

Second: Commissioner Wygle

Motion: Carried

## 6. Discussion/Updates

### a. Tacoma Arts Month Recap and Feedback

(32:22)

Staff gave an overview of Tacoma Arts Month programming that took place since the last Commission meeting including:

- Arts at the Armory – There was an increase in attendees from last year and about 100 artists participated. Feedback is currently being collected from participating artists with the main need so far being related to lighting in the space. Staff is looking at ways to expand outreach and to find the ideal date for future events.
- Tacoma Studio Tour – Staff is looking at ways to improve next year including bringing back a printed booklet/map.

Commissioners asked questions and provided feedback and reflections.

### b. Division Manager Recruitment

(47:10)

Commission Joe Williams presented on the recruitment process for the Division Manager. The application closes on November 16. Applications will initially be reviewed by a group of five people comprised of Community & Economic Development staff and community members. The first round of interviews will happen in December.

### c. DEI Subcommittee Planning for 2024

(52:10)

Commissioners discussed what can be done to ensure participation in and support of the DEI Subcommittee's work in 2024. Commissioners discussed developing a prioritized list of tasks for the DEI subcommittee to work on and shared some potential topics.

Some ideas for how to support greater involvement on the subcommittee include: setting a new meeting day/time, meeting every other month, building more time in to monthly Commission meetings for report out and discussion on topics the subcommittee is working on, alternating meeting topics with standard items that have to happen and new topics of interest, inviting subcommittee member attendance at Executive Committee meetings to help inform conversations, committing to learning both in and out of the subcommittee meetings, and establishing community guidelines to cultivate a safe environment.

## 7. Staff Check-In

(01:10:30)

### a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- 50 eligible Community Arts Projects funding applications were received. The selection panel's recommendations will be presented to the Commission in December.
- The Economic Development Committee of Council will conduct interviews with 12 applicants on November 14. They are looking to reappoint Commissioners to two seats and fill four seats.

### b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Schuster Parkway Underpass mural by Mary Mann
- South Tacoma Library mural by Dionne Bonner
- McKinley Intersection mural by Jorge Mota

- Safe Routes to Schools concrete stamps by Jessica Spring, Mila Cervania, Stephanie Pride, Mateo Smith, and Dion Thomas
- M Street Underpass mural by David Long and Jorge Garcia
- South Sprague Avenue mural by Fab-5 (Chris Paul Jordan and Breyahna “Breeze” Coston)
- Larchmont concrete stamps by Saiyare Refaei
- 17 new Traffic Box Wraps
- East 64th Street, Phase 2 public art by Elisheba Johnson
- Environmental Services Artist in Residence program
- Sound Transit partnership for new artwork wraps along the Light Rail, curated by Kenji Stoll
- Maritime Skills Center project with Tacoma Public Schools

**c. Tacoma Creates**

The Tacoma Creates annual report, covering 2022-2023 program year, will be released at the end of November. Tacoma Creates is developing a process to support the reauthorization of Tacoma Creates, including the development of talking points for City Council.

**8. Presentations**

**a. Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study Results**

**(01:29:50)**

Staff presented the national and local findings of the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 study. Overall, in 2022, Tacoma's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$163 million in economic activity (\$87.1 million in spending by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and \$75.9 million in event-related spending by their audiences.) The impact of this activity in Tacoma supported 2,065 jobs, generated \$28.7 million in tax revenue, and provided \$87.2 million in personal income to local residents. More information from the study findings is available at [cityoftacoma.org/aep](http://cityoftacoma.org/aep).

Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

**9. Report Back**

**(01:58:18)**

**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 Thanksgiving Play at Tacoma Arts Live, Dukesbay Production’s show Andelana, and visiting the studio of Jasmine Brown during the Tacoma Studio Tour.

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration**

There were no items.

**10. Adjourn**

**7:07 pm (02:00:25)**

**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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