

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: November 14, 2022

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.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Benjamin Maestas III, Chair
Olivia Samuel, Vice Chair
Jasmine Brown
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
MaryMikel Stump
Joe Williams

City Staff Present:

Amy McBride
Chevi Chung
Naomi Strom-Avila
Rebecca Solverson

Guest Presenters:

Christina Vega

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Heather Conklin
Jamika Scott

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Alejandra Villeda

1. Call to Order

5:06 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.

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

Commissioners Scott and Conklin had excused absences.

Vice Chair Samuel asked for a motion to approve the November 14th agenda as well as the minutes from the October 10th meeting.

There was a motion: "I would move that we approve the minutes."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Kula

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (01:54)

There was no Chair's Report.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (02:14)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations (03:15)

a. Fundee Highlight: Christina Vega, Blue Cactus Press

Staff introduced Christina Vega, Publisher at Blue Cactus Press, which received 2022 Community Arts Projects funding. Christina gave an overview of Blue Cactus Press's work; their focus on publishing work by folks from historically marginalized groups; how their work increases access to jobs, training, and technical information traditionally gatekept; organizational challenges; and opportunities. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

6. Discussion/Updates

a. Tacoma Arts Month Recap and Feedback (28:06)

Staff gave an update about Tacoma Arts Month including how Studio Tour artists were appreciative to open their studios in 2022, future programming dates, and feedback regarding the Studio Tour passport. Commissioners gave feedback about the Tacoma Studio Tour.

Arts at the Armory participation increased from 86 participating artists in 2021 to 106 artists in 2022. The event will include local food truck vendors and live entertainment. Staff asked Commissioners to support by volunteering to help with set up, day-of-assistance, clean up, and distribution of postcards.

b. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (39:05)

The subcommittee reviewed and provided input on the 2023-24 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) funding guidelines. Input from the subcommittee was integrated into the guidelines.

7. Action Items

a. 2023-24 Funding Distribution Update (41:39)

Staff shared that there is an updated estimated amount of \$395,000 to distribute through Tacoma Arts Commission Funding in 2023-2024. Staff proposed updated funding distribution as follows:

Funding Program	2023	2024
Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (24%)	\$96,000	
Community Arts Projects (73%)	\$144,000	\$144,000
Marketing and Promotion Technical Assistance (3%)	\$11,000	

The DEI Subcommittee and staff recommended increasing the TAIP funding awards to a set amount of \$4,000 each. At this level, the program could continue to support 24 artists for a total of \$96,000. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I move that we increase the TAIP funds for 2023 to \$4,000 per award."

Motion: Chair Maestas

Seconded: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Motion: Carried

Staff recommend increasing the allocation for Community Arts Projects to \$288,000 for the biennium / \$144,000 per year. At this level, each year the funding program could support 48 organizations at \$3,000, or 24 organizations at \$6,000, or any combination in between.

Staff recommended allocating \$11,000 toward a new program to assist TAIP funded artists with technical assistance including marketing and promotion of their programming. These funds will contribute to a larger pool of funds from Tacoma Creates that will assist organizations and groups in this work as well.

There was a motion: "I move that we accept the staff's recommendation."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Stump

Motion: Carried

b. 2023-24 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program Guidelines

(1:20:56)

Staff shared the 2023-24 Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) funding guidelines and went over the main content updates including project requirements and eligibility. Commissioners discussed whether to remove, modify, or keep eligibility language regarding artists who are currently full-time students. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I move that we change the language to 'If you are a full time undergraduate or graduate student, your proposed project is not part of your current academic study.'"

Motion: Commissioner Kula

Second: Commissioner Sanchez

Motion: Carried

Staff continued reviewing additional main content updates including funding amount, funding priorities, and budget and demographic information. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I move that we accept the additions to the funding language as presented staff."

Motion: Commissioner Stump

Second: Commissioner Neal

Motion: Carried

c. Commission Executive Committee Elections

(1:51:30)

Commissioners voted on the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the 2023 calendar year. Commissioners Kula and Stump were nominated for Chair. Commissioners Brown, Kula, Sanchez, Stump, and Villeda were nominated for Vice Chair.

Commissioners voted for the Chair position as follows: Michael Kula (5 votes) and MaryMikel Stump (5 votes). Commissioners voted one more time for the Chair position as follows: Michael Kula (6 votes) and MaryMikel Stump (4 votes).

Commissioners voted for the Vice Chair position and Jeannette Sanchez received the majority of votes at 5 votes.

There was a motion: "I move to accept the results of our 2023 elections for Michael Kula as Chair and Jeanette Sanchez as Vice Chair."

Motion: Chair Maestas
Second: Vice Chair Samuel
Motion: Carried

Chair Maestas tabled the rest of the agenda.

8. Adjourn

7:17 pm (2:11:58)

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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