

**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 Division

Community & Economic Development Dept.



**Date: December 11, 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  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Wade Neal  
Derek Nunn  
Jamika Scott  
Kenya Shakoor  
MaryMikel Stump  
Joe Williams  
Heidi Wygle

*City Staff Present:*

Daniel Garcia  
Lisa Jaret  
Ricky Reyes  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Sarah Jane Hoppe

*Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Ton Williams

**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.

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**

**(00:37)**

Commissioner Hoppe had an excused absence.

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

There was a motion: "I motion to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting."

Motion: Commissioner Shakoor

Seconded: Commissioner Scott

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair’s Report/Housekeeping**

**(01:50)**

Chair Kula led a farewell to Commissioners Scott and Stump, whose terms are ending. Commissioners Scott and Stump spoke about their experience serving on the Commission. Staff thanked Chair Kula and Vice Chair Sanchez for their service on the Executive Committee in 2023.

The Economic Development Committee of City Council reappointed Commissioner Brown and Vice Chair Sanchez to their seats. They also appointed Connie Behe, Katie Dean, Hannah-Clarke Gilmore, and Jes Takla, whose terms will begin in January.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

**(11:35)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Action Items**

**a. 2024 Community Arts Projects Funding Recommendations**

**(12:12)**

Staff shared an overview of the 2024 Community Arts Projects funding application review process. There were six panelists including Commissioner Shakoor, Connie Behe, Jes Takla, Wind Dell Woods, Jennifer Chin, and Hannah-Clarke Gilmore. Fifty applications were received with a total request of \$291,000. The panel recommended distribution of \$156,000 to 28 applicants. Of the 50 applications, 18 were from new groups; 9 of those were recommended for funding. 32 of the applicants are not currently funded through Tacoma Creates. Staff shared the panel’s recommendation on screen.

Commissioner Shakoor spoke about the evaluation criteria, funding priorities, and areas that the panel discussed. Connie Behe and Jes Takla shared about their experience on the panel. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

Funding recommendations are:

Organization	Project Title	Recommended
Adrian Milanio LLC	Creative Entrepreneur Monetization Workshop	\$0
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	26th Annual Asia Pacific New Year Celebration featuring Taiwan	\$6,000
AurPlace, LLC	AurPlace Sensory Camps	\$0
Barefoot Collective	Dancing in the Park 2024	\$6,000
Bell Street Creative	Art For Everyone Outreach Program	\$0
Black Night Market LLC	Black Night Market	\$6,000

Blue Cactus Press	Like A Mother: A Story Workshop for Mothers	\$0
Building Youth Through Music	Juneteenth - A Road to Economic Freedom	\$6,000
Catherine Place	HOWL at the Moon - Faces of the Sacred Feminine	\$0
Central Neighborhood Council	Tacoma Porchfest	\$6,000
Community and Veteran Events	Resilient Rhymes: Empowering BIPOC and Veterans Through Art & Poetry	\$6,000
CraftopiaWA, LLC	Art for All	\$0
Creative Colloquy	The Writer's Workshop Series	\$0
Das Biest Performance Project	Disabled Dance and Embodiment Workshops	\$6,000
Destiny City Music Collective	INTERSECTIONS Music Series	\$0
En Pointe Starrs	Representation Day in the arts	\$0
Foss Waterway Seaport	Tacoma Ocean Fest 2024	\$3,000
Hilltop Artists in Residence	Hilltop Artists Community Arts Events	\$6,000
Imperio Tattoos LLC	Exploring Airbrushing	\$6,000
Intentions Juice and Smoothie Bar	Monthly Art At Intentions	\$0
Krownless Kings	Krownless Showcase: Highlighting Our Youth & Young Adults of Tacoma	\$6,000
KTQA	Artists of Tacoma: Profiles in Audio	\$0
LeMay - America's Car Museum	Art & the Automobile	\$0
Lincoln International Business Association	Lincoln District Lunar New Year Festival	\$6,000
Making A Difference Foundation	No Tears Wasted	\$6,000
Mattice Beauty Supply	MBS Bi-Monthly Community Conference Room BIPOC &/Queer Activities	\$6,000
Meaningful Movies Tacoma	Meaningful Movies Tacoma and Gig Harbor Screening Films 2024	\$0
Mi Centro	Euforia: Gender Affirming Self-Care Evening	\$6,000
Museum of Glass	Glass Fest Northwest	\$6,000
Northwest Sinfonietta	Concert in the Cone : Sounds of Tacoma	\$0
Puget Sound Photography, LLC DBA Cosmic Spark Designs	Heart of Colors Project	\$0
Refugee Choir Project	Spring Concert Featuring 3 Tacoma Public Schools & Special Guests	\$6,000
Remakery	Take and Make Kits	\$0
South End Neighborhood Council	56th Street Safeway Mural and Greenspace Project	\$6,000
Spaceworks Tacoma	Vibrant Tacoma Mural Festival	\$0
Sui Productions	Together We Grow	\$6,000
Tacoma Community College	Second Annual Black Artists Exhibition	\$3,000
Tacoma Concert Band	Summer Concert Series	\$0

Tacoma Farmers Market	Community Art at Tacoma Farmers Markets	\$3,000
Tacoma Light Trail	Tacoma Light Trail 2024	\$6,000
Tacoma Opera Association	The Tales of Hoffman opera	\$0
Tacoma Puzzle Hunt	Tacoma Puzzle Hunt	\$0
Tacomarama Community Street Band	Tacoma HONK! Fest	\$3,000
The Bajan Station LLC	An Evening in New Orleans	\$6,000
The Painting Panda Pottery Studio LLC	The South Sound!	\$0
Toolbox Laboratories	CRAFT NIGHT!	\$0
Trini Plate, LLC	Caribbean Queens Festival	\$6,000
University of Puget Sound	Fairview and Theatrical Antiracism	\$6,000
Vision Step Team	Read Across Tacoma with Vision Step Team & guests	\$6,000
Write253	Tacoma Wayzgoose	\$6,000

There was a motion: "I move to approve the 2023 Community Arts funding recommendations as presented."

Motion: Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares

Second: Commissioner Nunn

Motion: Carried

Staff will send out funding notifications to all applicants and will provide an option for constructive feedback, if applicants request it.

## 6. Discussion/Updates

### a. DEI Subcommittee Planning for 2024

(33:20)

Commissioners continued discussion on how to set up the DEI Subcommittee for success in 2024. Staff shared ranked priorities and feedback about subcommittee priorities, based on survey responses received from Commission members.

Commissioners discussed; thoughts shared include:

- Considering how the subcommittee will be run and who will select and guide discussions. How will it operate within the Commission and what tasks do they want to take on? There needs to be boundaries to the scope of the subcommittee's work.
- Whether membership on the subcommittee should rotate to encourage participation from all Commission members.
- Discussing DEI as a regular part of Commission meetings.
- DEI work should be inherent in everything the Commission does; is there a need for a subcommittee specific to DEI or could there be multiple ad hoc subcommittees to address individual topics, using a DEI lens, as they come up?
- Grounding conversations in the needs of artists and creative community and how to support those needs. The DEI subcommittee can then work on how to implement what is needed to move the work forward.

### b. Division Manager Recruitment

(01:01:12)

Commissioner Joe Williams presented on the recruitment process for the Division Manager. Applications were received from 128 people; of those 34% were from BIPOC applicants and 1 in 3 were from applicants who live out of state. All applications were reviewed and 9 applicants were selected to interview based on applicant’s municipal experience, racial equity experience, and policy experience. The first round of interviews will happen the first week of January.

## 7. Staff Check-In

(01:05:47)

### a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- 2024 Community Arts Projects contracts will be starting soon and 2023 Community Arts Projects contracts are wrapping up.
- Tacoma Artists initiative Program funding continues through 2024. There will be an upcoming funded artist cohort meeting in January.
- Staff is collecting feedback from the public regarding needs related to professional development. Feedback will help inform future workshops and services.

### b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Public Works has dedicated \$150,000 for new murals in 2024 including murals at Bay Street Tunnel, Center & Yakima, and South Tacoma Way & Union
- M Street Underpass mural by David Long and Jorge Garcia will continue in the spring
- South Sprague Avenue mural by Fab-5 (Chris Paul Jordan and Breyahna “Breeze” Coston) will continue in the spring
- Upcoming Safe Routes to Schools street mural at Stewart Middle School
- Upcoming mural for Tacoma Public Library main branch
- Development of an Artist in Residence program for Public Works, which will focus on the transportation master plan
- Installation of Lushootseed concrete stamps in front of the Tacoma Public Library main branch
- The application deadline for the Environmental Services Artist in Residence program is January 4
- The Public Art Subcommittee is developing a list of all eligible projects
- During the City’s mid-mod budget process, additional funds were allocated to fix lighting on the Bridge of Glass
- New designs for traffic box wrap were shared
- A Commission volunteer is needed for the Environmental Services Artist in Residence panel

### c. Tacoma Creates

Staff shared an overview of the Tacoma Creates annual report, which covers July 2022 through June 2023. Over \$4.5 million was distributed to cultural organizations, over 1,100 cultural programs and events were produced with over 1,000,000 participants, with a majority of programming being free.

## 8. Report Back

(01:24:10)

### 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:

- Commissioner Wygle met with TAIP-funded artist Burl Battersby about his ‘Voices of Tacoma’ poetry anthology.
- Kenya Shakoor met with TAIP-funded artist Roxann Murray about her photography project highlighting Indigenous women. MaryMikel Stump shared about the accompanying exhibit of Roxann’s photographs, which will be held at the Washington State History Museum.
- Vice Chair Sanchez shared about holiday theatre shows currently going on.
- Commissioners Nunn shared about a project he is working on called One Table Show.

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration**

There were no items.

**9. Adjourn**

**6:37 pm (01:32:18)**

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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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