

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 Manage

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: December 12, 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
Heather Conklin
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Elizabeth Pew
Jeanette Sanchez
Jamika Scott
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams

City Staff Present:

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

1. Call to Order

5:05 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 tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxwəstəłlils 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

(00:43)

There were no excused absences.

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

There was a motion: "I motion that we accept the agenda as presented."

Motion: Commissioner Conklin

Seconded: Commissioner Sanchez

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (01:57)

Chair Maestas led a farewell to Commissioners whose terms are ending and asked the incoming Chair, Commissioner Kula, to present certificates of service. Commissioners and staff shared gratitude for the service and contributions of Chair Maestas, Vice Chair Samuel, and Commissioners Conklin and Pew.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (16:15)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Discussion/Updates

a. Tacoma Arts Month Recap (17:07)

Staff gave an update about Tacoma Arts Month and shared data about the impact of the Tacoma Studio Tour and Arts at the Armory, including artist participation by Council District. Commissioners discussed.

b. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (23:01)

Commissioner Stump gave an summary of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee's November 17 meeting including: reviewing and updating the language for the Municipal Art Collection Gift Donation Form, discussion about potential topics for future subcommittee meetings, staff attending a panel discussion titled "Arts Recovery Through Anti-Racist Action" which will be shared with the subcommittee once available, onboarding new Commissioners, and looking at ways local organizations could pair and open their spaces to creatives.

6. Action Items

a. Municipal Art Collection Equity Statement (26:54)

Staff shared the following draft of an Equity Statement for inclusion in documents related to Municipal Art Collection. The DEI subcommittee has reviewed and revised the statement.

"In alignment with Tacoma City Council Resolution 40622, the Tacoma Arts Commission is committed to sustained and transformational anti-racist work and seeks to reverse historical inequities and imbalances in resource allocation when considering artworks to be included in the Municipal Art Collection and/or for work to be sited on City property or City Rights of Way. *Resource allocation means any money, staff time, and/or space that is required to manage and steward the artwork if accepted." Commissioners discussed.

There was a motion: "I move that we adopt this updated language as presented."

Motion: Commissioner Stump

Seconded: Commissioner Conklin

Motion: Carried

b. 2023 Community Arts Projects Funding Recommendations (30:21)

Staff shared an overview of the 2023 Community Arts Projects funding application review process. There were seven panelists including Commissioners Stump and Williams, Derek Nunn, Erin Tail, Curtis Ashby, Sarah Chavez, and Amy Van Mechelen. Thirty-five applications were received with a total request of \$195,000. The panel recommended distribution of \$138,000. Staff shared the panel's recommendation on

screen while Commissioners Stump and Williams spoke about their experience on the panel. Commissioners discussed the recommendations as follows:

Organization	Project Title	Recommended
ALMA Mater Tacoma LLC	The Bridge Music Project	\$6,000
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	25th Annual Asia Pacific New Year Celebration featuring Samoa	\$6,000
Barefoot Collective	Healing Movement Community Dance Performance	\$6,000
Blue Cactus Press	"Less Desolate" Haiku Graphic Novel	\$6,000
Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation	The 11th Annual Tacoma Moon Festival	\$6,000
Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma	Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma: Season 2023	\$0
Collective Liberation in Practice LLC	Free in Movement	\$3,000
CraftopiaWA LLC	Community-Centered Hands-On Arts Programming	\$3,000
Destiny City Music Collective	CONVERGENCE Multimedia Music & Art Series	\$0
First Evangelical Church of Tacoma	Listen Live at Lunch Summer Concert Series	\$3,000
Hilltop Artists in Residence	Hilltop Artists Community Arts Events	\$6,000
Johnygirl Sound Therapy & Healing Arts Studio	Johnygirl Sound Therapy & Healing Arts Studio Soulful Sundays	\$6,000
Kowch Surferz Anonymous	"On the Kowch" Proposal	\$6,000
Lincoln International Business Association	Lincoln District Food Walk Series	\$6,000
Macintosh Service	Into the Future	\$0
Making A Difference Foundation	Muted Voice Mural	\$6,000
No Mine Studios LLC	South Side Animation Club	\$3,000
Northwest Sinfonietta	'Moving, Music and Mindfulness' Trail Walks at Tacoma Nature Center	\$3,000
Safe Streets Campaign	Blueberry Park Community Garden Tiles	\$6,000
Sister Cities Council of Tacoma-Pierce County d.b.a. Tacoma Sister Cities	Tacoma Sister Cities Indigenous Film Festival and Summit	\$3,000
South End Neighborhood Council	72nd and D Mural Project Phase 1	\$3,000
Strategic Nature, LLC	Puget Sound Nature and Well-being Symposium and Community Day	\$0
Supportive Housing Association	Salón de Primavera	\$6,000
Tacoma Community College	Black Art & Black Artists	\$6,000
Tacoma Healing Awareness Community & Truth Teller Consulting	"We Are Who We Are Waiting For"	\$0
Tacoma Light Trail	Tacoma Light Trail 2022-23	\$6,000
Tacoma Meaningful Movies	Meaningful Movies Tacoma Engages Communities	\$0
Tacoma Music Academy	Keyboard Based Music Education	\$0
Tacoma Ocean Fest	Tacoma Ocean Fest 2023	\$6,000
Tacoma Opera Association	Tacoma Method	\$6,000
Tacoma Refugee Choir	Filming and Public Release of Moon Song Music Video	\$6,000

Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center	DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T COPE	\$0
The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra	Middle East Meets West	\$3,000
Toolbox Laboratories	Toolbox Laboratories Craft Night	\$6,000
Write253	Tacoma Wayzgoose	\$6,000

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

Motion: Chair Maestas

Second: Vice Chair Samuel

Motion: Carried

c. 2023-25 Tacoma Poet Laureate Guidelines (42:35)

Staff introduced and gave an update about the 2023-25 Tacoma Poet Laureate guidelines, which incorporate feedback from the current poet laureate as well as language to align with funding guidelines.

Commissioner Kula suggested an update to the following content in the call: “Current Tacoma Poet Laureate Lydia K. Valentine will curate and host a poetry event at which the winner of this year’s Poet Laureate competition will be awarded” to “Current Tacoma Poet Laureate Lydia K. Valentine will curate and host a poetry event at which the newly selected Poet Laureate will be honored.”

There was a motion: “I would move that we approve the Tacoma Poet Laureate instructions with the addendum of taking out the competition aspect of it.”

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion: Carried

7. Staff Check-In

a. Public Art Updates (49:58)

Staff gave an update about Jorge Garcia’s upcoming mural work at State Route 7 & 38th Street, the Wishing Tree – Trick or Tree! event, an upcoming call to artists for the mural artist roster, and an upcoming call to artists for traffic box art wraps. Commissioners discussed.

b. Staff Projects Overview and Updates (54:58)

New Commissioners will be starting their term of service in January. There will be a Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding application workshop on December 14; applications are open through January 23, 2023. Staff gave an update about progress on the Arts & Economic Prosperity study and about the reboot of artTown. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

c. Tacoma Creates (1:02:21)

Staff gave an overview of the Tacoma Creates Annual Report, which covers July 2021 through June 2022. Tacoma Creates is preparing to release funding applications for the next funding cycle. If Commissioners are interested in serving on future Tacoma Creates funding panels, please let staff know.

8. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports (1:10:08)

There were no items.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

(1:10:15)

Commissioner Sanchez gave an update about meeting with TAIP fundees Cydney Stevens and Truth Koroj, and about her experience volunteering at Arts at the Armory. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares gave an update about meeting with TAIP fundee Katie Dean. Vice Chair Samuel shared about the land acknowledgement plaques and Lushootseed signs in Tacoma Public Schools.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(1:15:57)

There were no items.

9. Adjourn

6:21 pm (1:16:11)

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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