

Members

Robin Echtle, *Chair*
Sarah Idstrom, *Vice Chair*
Lauren Walker, *City Council Liaison*
Marty Campbell, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
Antonio Edwards, Jr.
Janice Karroll
Traci Kelly
Donald Lacky
Bill La Vergne
Janet Matzke
Dane Meyer
Jacqueline Peterson
Mike Sweney
Jana Wennstrom

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Community & Economic Development

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which are available at www.tacomaculture.org/arts/tac.asp.

Staff

Amy McBride, *Tacoma Arts Administrator*
Naomi Strom-Avila, *Cultural Arts Specialist*

Date: March 8, 2010

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Robin Echtle, Chair
Sarah Idstrom, Vice-Chair
Jan Brazzell
Janice Karroll
Don Lacky
Janet Matzke
Dane Meyer
Jacqueline Peterson
Mike Sweney
Jana Wennstrom

Staff Present

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist

Guests Present:

Mary Langholz, Washington State Arts Alliance
Alex Hogan, Allen Renaissance, Inc.
Cheryl Jones, Allen Renaissance, Inc.

City Council Members Absent:

Lauren Walker
Marty Campbell

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Rachel Cardwell
Antonio Edwards, Jr.
Bill La Vergne

Commission Member Unexcused Absence:

Traci Kelly

1. Call to Order

5:07 pm (00:07)

Chair Echtle

2. Excusal of Absences

5:07 pm (00:30)

Vice Chair Idstrom

Commissioners Cardwell, Edwards and La Vergne had an excused absence. Commissioner Kelly had an unexcused absence.

3. Approval of Minutes**5:08 pm (01:06)****Vice Chair Idstrom**

Motion: Don Lacky

Second: Jan Karroll

Motion: Carried

4. Approval of Agenda**5:08 pm (01:21)****Vice Chair Idstrom**

Motion: Jackie Peterson

Second: Jana Wennstrom

Motion: Carried

5. Chair's Report:**5:08 pm (01:39)****Chair Echtele**

Vice Chair Idstrom gave an overview of the Washington State Arts Alliance meeting on March 3 with Mayor Strickland. Chair Idstrom and Commissioners Cardwell, Karroll, Kelly, and Meyer attended as well as about 60 community members. The Mayor solicited suggestions for areas of focus from attendees. Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy or members of the Tacoma School Board were suggested as possible future guests.

6. Staff Check-In**5:14 pm (7:38)**

Staff is working to submit a grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts for funding to support technical assistance programming of the Arts Commission.

Washington Lawyers for the Arts is hosting a low-cost Brown Bag seminar focused on Intellectual Property on March 25, 12 – 1:30 pm at the Tacoma Art Museum. They are also hosting a free tax workshop for artists on March 23, 12 – 1:30 pm at the Tacoma Public Library.

Commissioners were encouraged to help spread the word about the US Census.

Commissioners volunteered to attend and evaluate Arts Projects and Anchor Fund events as follows:

date	organization	event	volunteer
March 25, 2010	Tacoma Pierce County Sister Cities	International Film Fest - South Korea	Don Lacky
March 27, 2010	Northwest Sinfonietta	Bach to the Future	Don Lacky
March 27, 2010	Proctor Farmers Market	Music at the Proctor Farmers Market	Sarah Idstrom
April 1, 2010	Tacoma Pierce County Sister Cities	International Film Fest - Norway	Jan Brazzell
April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	Flower Drum Song	Janet Matzke and Don Lacky
April 17, 2010	Northwest Sinfonietta	Mozart's Requiem	Robin Echtele
April 17, 2010	Proctor Farmers Market	Music at the Proctor Farmers Market	Sarah Idstrom

7. Presentations**A. Cultural Congress****5:19 pm (12:06)**

Mary Langholz, Executive Director of the Washington State Arts Alliance (WSAA), gave an overview of the WSAA Cultural Congress. The conference is being held April 26 – 28 at Skamania Lodge.

B. Allen Place

5:30 pm (23:57)

Alex Hogan and Cheryl Jones from Allen Renaissance, Inc. presented to the Commission about Allen Place (located at 1216 Martin Luther King Jr. Way). When complete, Allen Place will provide after-school performing arts and technology classes to youth in the Hilltop neighborhood. They are talking with local arts organizations to see about bring these organizations' existing programming into the facilities at Allen Place. The facilities are scheduled to open in the summer of 2011.

Youth programming that will be offered is planned to be free. Space will be leased to organizations on the weekend and during daytime hours and the building will include a coffee shop that will help provide revenue.

8. Action Items

A. Anchor Fund Guidelines

5:56 pm (49:40)

Commissioners reviewed the proposed changes to the Anchor Fund guidelines. Proposed changes included: strengthening the purpose of the funding program; narrowing eligibility to include, among other things, organizations which have a mission that is “primarily arts centered”, have at least 5 years of ongoing paid employment, have an annual operating budget of at least \$250,000, and are headquartered in Tacoma with major venues located in Tacoma; defining non-eligibility criteria; clarifying that funding is not guaranteed; clarifying evaluation criteria; requesting that an organization representative be available for clarification during panel review; updates to questions in the application narrative; and including a section to address operating deficits.

Commissioners discussed whether the guidelines reflect the Mayor's concerns expressed regarding engaging audiences through arts education and reaching diverse communities.

Commissioners will further discuss the guidelines at the annual retreat.

9. Discussion

A. Annual Retreat – Review of Past Goals

6:38 pm (1:31:15)

Commissioners briefly reviewed goals that were set in the 2009 retreat and suggested pulling out the top priorities to work on in 2010 at the March 20th retreat.

10. Reports

A. Spaceworks Tacoma

6:45 pm (1:38:28)

Amy presented the proposal for Spaceworks Tacoma which will include static art installations and temporary events, 1 – 6 month artist residencies, and creative business laboratories. Participants in the static art installations will receive stipends as well as business/non-profit support offered through Shunpike and the City of Tacoma. Artist residencies will be managed through Shunpike. Creative business laboratories will receive guidance through economic gardening services at the City.

Confirmed spaces include buildings at 7th and St. Helens and 9th and Broadway. It is proposed that the spaces would have free rent and the artists would pay utilities.

Spaceworks Tacoma is a partnership between the City of Tacoma, the Tacoma/Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, and Shunpike.

Commissioner Meyer offered his photography services to document the program in practice.

11. Good of the Order

7:00 pm (1:53:18)

Commissioner Meyer announced for Commissioner Matzke that Windermere Professional Partners raised \$1,500 for D.A.S.H. Center for the Arts.

Commissioner Karroll voiced concern about a public comment she heard about the Tacoma Arts Commission's rejection of the Goddess of Commerce gift proposal and about the closing of the Commencement Bay Gallery at 9th and Commerce.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm