

## Tacoma Creates Index Card Summary

*This document summarizes the more than 500 responses from participants at the Tacoma Creates Creative Community Conversation held at Theater on the Square on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. It is organized into sections related to Access, Artist Issues, City Issues, and the Funding Process. There are bullet points with common themes that emerged from the responses, bullet points in bold indicate that we received a high quantity of responses with that theme. Under each section are several verbatim quotes that highlight the most common themes, to help the collective and specific voices of the participants be heard.*

### Access:

- **Interdisciplinary (connecting arts with science, (especially environmental science) heritage, history) for large organizations, small organizations, and general public-collaboration, not competition or duplication\***
- **Passes for all that include cultural institutions, zoos, scientific experiences, libraries, as well as transportation, increased opportunities for people who previously were not able to attend either due to low income, varying abilities, neighborhoods that don't have access, or lack of awareness**
- **More opportunities for People of Color-both as artists and general public-including languages that are spoken throughout Tacoma (Lushootseed), participation on Boards, staffing at arts orgs, and teaching in schools**
- **Children of all ages and from all backgrounds are able to attend arts enrichment classes and encounter more art (of all kinds), science, history, heritage and environmental education within their schools, neighborhoods, and over the summer. These experiences help them to be excited about school, facilitate success, and encourage them to make more compassionate and community building decisions after leaving school.**
- **Previously underrepresented neighborhoods can establish artistic identity and opportunities, and all communities learn more about each other's cultures and identities-movement within neighborhoods**
- **Better understanding and inclusiveness for children and adults with varying abilities**
- Artistic opportunities for people living in retirement homes and nursing care facilities, and intergenerational opportunities for all ages to interact together in a safe, accessible, inclusive environment
- Space and support for artists from the LGBTQ community
- Access is also "when" – must be able to access cultural institutions aside from daytime hours
- Lift up voices of those typically underrepresented and ensure that not just bigger, wealthier organizations make decisions that continue that may result in gentrification or a continuation of privilege
- Cultural opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to feel included and encounter art; art builds empathy and helps Tacoma to find ways to meet needs of the homeless community
- Immigrants/refugees/people who were incarcerated-can access art in safe ways, and are represented in art

*"As a taxpayer, I am pleased to contribute to making my community one where arts/culture/science is not limited to only those who can afford the supplies, classes, admission, tickets. Let us remove the elitist barrier and provide opportunities for all new interests."*

*"As a kid that is disabled visually, Tacoma Creates gave me confidence in who I am, despite my disability I loved life and learned my talents and loves instead of focusing on my challenges. New experiences made me smile. Tacoma Creates gave me tools to succeed to be a confident person, by building accommodations, you built confidence in me."*

*"As a school counselor, Tacoma Creates has been great because it has provided opportunities for students to express themselves and cope with potential stress in their lives. It has helped increase access to arts and performance outlets that have been positive & productive challenges for their energy. It has also helped me connect to local organizations, so I know what to recommend and what opportunities are available to my students."*

*"As a parent of a public-school student, Tacoma Creates gave my son a more wholistic view of what Tacoma is and what makes up each neighborhood as we are the community as a whole. Also providing opportunities to interact in cultural institutions without the stigma of being poor."*

*“As a soldier that recently got stationed here to JBLM, Tacoma Creates has been great because there are so many cool things to do after work, I don’t have to drive to Seattle. There are fun sports, concerts, bars, and museums.”*

*“As an immigrant who is new to the community, Tacoma Creates has been successful because I have been able to connect with people within my culture and community through the new arts and culture program that was started in my community. I also love to see art that is representative of my culture in the city.”*

### Artists

- **Art as livelihood-internships, entry level positions, and increased employment opportunities in schools, local businesses, cultural institutions**
- **Networking and advancement opportunities for artists**
- **Access to schools**
- **Better spaces for promoting art**
- Structure for helping underrepresented communities establish 501 c3s (especially women and minorities, and possible exception to the 2 years of establishment policy for those people)

*“As an African America visual artist, working full time and managing a part time art business. My network of artists is wider and stronger and strong collaborators have helped to strengthen the work and passion I have for being a catalyst for change.”*

*“As an artist, Tacoma Creates has been great because I have more opportunities to participate in community art projects and be paid for my time.”*

*“As a performing and visual artist, in my 20s (now 30s, wow!) this initiative has given me motivation and support to pursue the arts full-time. I’ve been able to open my own creative business which allows me to both explore my art as well as help others find their own inner artist and child.”*

*“As an arts executive, Tacoma Creates has awakened a new awareness in our community. All individuals from youth to elderly now have more opportunities to experience affordable cultural programming.”*

### City

- **Environmental impact (increased awareness of environmentalism and art as a teaching tool for dangers of harming environment)**
- **Cultural impact=economic impact, especially for small, local businesses**
- **Value of Tacoma as a city, a destination for artists, professionals, students, and tourists**
- **Art within walking distance-transit only so helpful because bus takes time**
- **Shared information between cultural institutions and art organizations so public knows all available opportunities**
- Understanding of art as a tool for social change and a bridge to respecting different viewpoints
- Advisory board was diverse, process was transparent, information/stories shared
- Growing smaller while growing bigger
- Avoiding/reducing gentrification
- People who voted no see the value, and vote yes next time
- Mandated guidelines for supporting programs that are inclusive and diverse
- Access to art for people from all backgrounds generates increases an understanding of who we all are as a community and our connectedness to each other, making our city a better place for us and a location people want to visit, do business in

*“As a business owner, Tacoma Creates is great because I can easily find talented and creative people to hire and collaborate with. The people have exposure to many different fields and are versatile in their skill set. They have common sense and social awareness. They are more tolerant and accepting of new ideas and strive to make good relationships with everyone.”*

*“As a resident of Stadium District, Tacoma Creates has been great as a vehicle to beautify the city through art projects on full display throughout the city for all to enjoy.”*

*“As a Tacoma Resident, Tacoma Creates has brought amazing and relevant sculpture and murals to my neighborhood. It has inspired my family to walk through the neighborhood more often and the city wide map to public art has drawn us to neighborhoods we otherwise may have never visited. We have expanded our sense of community and connected with neighbors we would have missed.”*

*“Tacoma Creates has created a legacy of cultural celebration that continues to connect us, and deepens our city’s identity as being a creative and welcoming place.”*

*“My small business is able to employ members of our community who face disadvantages because Tacoma Creates has inspired folks to patronize Tacoma Museums, Theaters, Concert Halls, and in turn has made my small business financially successful.”*

*“As a Tacoma Resident, Tacoma Creates has been great because it reaffirmed why I choose to live here. The cultural community has grown and is stronger but still feels like community where I know what’s happening and have plenty of opportunities to engage.”*

#### Funding:

- **More grants/support for small organizations/artists, support for space, advertising, workshops, hiring, and mentorship opportunities**
- **Schools can access cultural institutions without cost, hire additional art teachers, offer after school art programs**
- Cultural institutions given resources to provide better opportunities for public to encounter art that is diverse, inclusive, representative of their own community, and high quality
- Clear and simple application process for individual artists to small organizations to large cultural institutions
- Upfront, not reimbursement based
- Renewable through more than just government support
- Women in science

*“There is funding for projects I want to start and programs I can participate in as well as my mother. Programs where citizenship or income isn’t a factor for ability to participate. More easily accessible art.”*

*“As a musician, Tacoma Creates has helped me share my art with the community. There are venues for performances, events to share ideas, outreach programs to inspire students and community members, and access for the community. My art and creative pursuits are supported, welcomed, and valued.”*

*“As an Art Instructor, Tacoma Creates has been great because I was able to train other artists in my craft so they can provide services to ELO services in Tacoma Public Schools.”*

### Specific Suggested Programming:

- **Arts being used to help teach other subjects in school**
- **Architecture-as art and history**
- **Art/science/heritage within school classrooms, not just as a separate subject, but resources/organizations available to teachers at no cost**
- Art to teach truthful local history
- Heritage & history programming for educating everyone from young children to senior citizens
- New technological use for addressing environmental issues
- Pop Up Shops for artists at already established festivals
- Community Gardens
- Culinary Arts
- New venues for promoting that arts (radio, film, advertising in neighborhoods)
- International cultural exchanges
- Research studies through local universities
- Opportunities for artists to be involved in schools
- Art therapy, particularly for people with disabilities
- Volunteer coordination
- Public art-more opportunities for local businesses and more than murals (bus stops, buildings, Tacoma Dome)
- Youth music symposium
- Youth Battle of the Bands
- Skateable art installations
- Youth Arts Festival
- Partnerships with ECAP, daycares
- Theater programs for young children (Oly Family Theater)
- Community arts center
- Film festivals at parks
- Bug Zoo
- Housing/homeless support
- STEM community center for students with ability for them to connect with professionals in the field
- Paint garbage trucks!
- New stage at Wapato for summer arts festival
- Art walking tours-across whole city
- Travelling playgrounds-trailers full of art supplies that travel around the city bringing art/theater/music/science to all areas
- High school students partnered with university students for research projects
- Art therapy/mindfulness
- Vocational programs
- Collaboration between arts and sports
- Music, math
- Empathy Museum