Date: January 12, 2015
Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16
Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:
Traci Kelly, Chair
Dane Meyer, Vice Chair
Scott Campbell
Rachel Cardwell
Joel Chang
Heather Conklin
Kareem Kandi
Matt Hudgins
Sarah Idstrom
Kareem Kandi
Wanda Thompson
Katrina Toft
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

Commission Members Excused Absence:
Mike Sweney
Wanda Thompson

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:
Ronald Lagman

Council Members in Attendance:
Marty Campbell

Staff Present:
Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator

1. Call to Order 5:00 pm (00:05) Chair Kelly

2. Consent Agenda 5:00 pm (00:16) Vice Chair Meyer

Commissioners Sweney and Thompson had excused absences.

Vice Chair Meyer asked if Commissioners had a chance to review the minutes from the last meeting and the agenda for this meeting and asked, “Any motion to approve?”

There was a motion: “So moved.”

Motion: Sarah Idstrom
Second: Scott Campbell
Chair Kelly asked for a friendly amendment to the motion to remove the Tacoma 2025 presentation from the agenda.

There was a motion: “I so move that we have the presentation at our February meeting.”

Motion: Sarah Idstrom
Second: Scott Campbell
Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report 5:01 pm (01:20) Chair Kelly
Chair Kelly attended a presentation of the plans for portion of the Prairie Line Trail adjacent to the Tacoma Art Museum and down to S. 15th Street.

Chair Kelly welcomed new Commission members Conklin, Kandi, and Wilmot-Stenehjem. Commissioners introduced themselves.

4. Staff Check-In 5:07 pm (07:54)
Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) and Arts Anchor Fund funding applications are due January 26.

The Creative Space Tacoma survey, which is gathering data about creative space needs in Tacoma, is open until February 9. Commissioners discussed the survey and ways to expand diversity in respondents.

BLRB is conducting a feasibility study of the former McKinley Police Substation to see about potentially using the space for creative use.

Rebecca Solverson will be brought back on contract with the Arts Program to help coordinate public art projects.

Metro Parks recently passed a Percent for Art ordinance (1% of bond funds). The Arts Program will be working with them on contract to help develop their public art program and an art plan.

Sean Orlando and David Shulman have been making modifications to their public art proposal for Sound Transit’s Tacoma Gateway project, in response to feedback from the Commission.

James Sinding’s public art project for Sound Transit is on hold until the budget can be worked out.

Ed Kroupa’s public art project for the Esplanade is underway and it has been upgraded from aluminum to bronze sea life-inspired buoy forms.

A dedication will be held in 2015 for Yuki Nakamura’s public art pieces at Bay Terrace. It will be held in tandem with the dedication of the public art piece being created by Diane Hansen and Jennifer Weddermann.
Cultural Access WA is an initiative, based on a taxing method used in Denver and Minneapolis, where a multi-county region dedicates a percentage of sales and/or property taxes toward increasing access to arts, culture, and other areas. More information about Cultural Access WA will be presented to the Commission in the future.

The Vision 2025 plan will be presented at City Council’s Study Session on January 13.

5. Discussion/Updates

A. Warhol for the Tacoma Dome 5:26 pm (26:46)
At the December 9 Economic Development Committee meeting, Kim Bedier, the City’s Director of Public Assembly Facilities, and Matt Balk, Operations Manager, presented on the results on the test patch on the Tacoma Dome. The decal wore well over the 6 month test period. Twice yearly cleanings, at $150,000 a cleaning, was recommended if the proposal moves forward.

For the City to be able to move forward with the concept of the Warhol on the Tacoma Dome, they need to approach the Warhol Foundation with a detailed proposal and get permission. But before that can happen, a resolution would need to come to the full City Council asking for permission to be able to submit such a proposal.

All funding for the Warhol on the Dome would be privately fundraised. The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation has established a fund for the project and has seeded it with $10,000.

The majority of the test decal is still on the Dome roof and will continue to be tested. Ms. McBride is working with Ms. Bedier to submit a resolution to Council.

Councilmember Campbell brought up the issue of some public pushback and the need for strong advocacy to help make the case to the public about why this is a very unique and beneficial opportunity for Tacoma.

Commissioners discussed and asked clarifying questions. The next step is for Council to pass a resolution; the date for this has yet to be set.

Councilmember Campbell mentioned that Council will be considering a resolution to officially establish a Theater District in Tacoma.

B. Arts Commission Annual Retreat 5:53 pm (53:31)
Commissioners discussed possible dates and topics for the Commission’s retreat. Arts Program staff will send out an email poll to determine the best date for the retreat.

Possible topics include: orientation to the Commission, effective ways to get the word out in a digital age, a review of what the Commission does and how it can be improved, a focus on actionable topics (e.g. Warhol for the Dome, revenue generation), creative space needs and ways to support the growth of local artists so that they can help fulfill their space needs, crossover with Sister Cities for artistic and cultural exchanges, and expanding a patron base which is engaged in the arts.

6. Report Back

A. Advocacy Reports 6:13 pm (01:13:12)
There were no reports.
B. Arts Events Attended 6:13 pm (01:13:36)
Commissioners shared art events they attended or have been involved with including Tacoma Youth Symphony, Tacoma Art Museum, Broadway Center Christmas tree lighting, Classical Tuesdays in Old Town, Tacoma Revels, First Night Tacoma, Museum of Glass, Tacoma Youth Theatre, and various concerts.

C. Future Agenda Items for Consideration 6:19 pm (01:19:13)
There were no items noted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm