

Members

Heather Conklin, *Chair*
Rosie Ayala, *Vice Chair*
John Hines, *City Council Liaison*
Keith Blocker, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
Olivia Allison
Michelle Douglas
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Anna Holcomb
Paula Jacobson
Michael Kula
Benjamin Maestas III
Elizabeth Pew
James Stowe
Wanda Thompson
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
Sarah Woodson

Staff

Amy McBride, *Tacoma Arts Administrator*
Chevi Chung, *Community Programs Specialist*
Clarissa Gines, *Tacoma Creates Coordinator*
Lisa Jaret, *Tacoma Creates Program Manager*
Rebecca Solverson, *Public Art Specialist*
Naomi Strom-Avila, *Funding & Cultural Programs Manager*
Asia Tail, *Arts Program Coordinator*

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Tacoma Venues & Events

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.

Date: January 13, 2020

Location: 747 Market Street, Room 248

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Heather Conklin, Chair
Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Olivia Allison
Michelle Douglas
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Anna Holcomb
Michael Kula
Benjamin Maestas III
Elizabeth Pew
James Stowe
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
Sarah Woodson

Staff Present:

Amy McBride
Naomi Strom-Avila
Chevi Chung
Asia Tail
Kim Bedier

Guests Present:

Don Lacky
Christina Westpheling
Kellie Richardson
Congo Carter
Denise Jeffersen

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Wanda Thompson

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Paula Jacobson

747 Market Street, Room 900 · Tacoma, WA · 98402 · Phone (253) 591-5192 · Fax (253) 591-5232



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1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:14) Chair Conklin

Chair Conklin called the meeting to order and invited Councilmember John Hines, the new City Council Liaison for the Arts Commission, to introduce himself. Chair Conklin recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəʔ txʷəl tiit ʔa čəʔ ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsʔaʔlils 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

5:06 pm (01:57) Vice Chair Ayala

Commissioner Thompson had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Ayala asked for a motion to approve the agenda as well as minutes from the December meeting.

There was a motion: “I so move.”

Motion: Sarah Woodson

Second: Anna Holcomb

Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report

5:07 pm (02:27) Chair Conklin

Chair Conklin welcomed new commissioners and invited all Commissioners to introduce themselves.

4. Discussion/Updates

a. Arts Commission Annual Retreat

5:16 pm (11:56)

Staff shared date options for the Arts Commission annual retreat. Commissioners shared their schedules and the retreat was set for March 28th, 2020, 10am-3pm, at the YMCA Headquarters.

b. Literary Laureate Subcommittee Update

5:22 pm (17:25)

The subcommittee participants shared that they are currently researching comparable programs in other cities and will reach out to past Tacoma poets laureate to get input on adapting the poet laureate position to a more broadly defined literary laureate position. The group will share their final recommendations later this winter.

c. Equity & Inclusion Roundtable Update

5:25 pm (20:18)

Staff shared about the Equity & Inclusion Roundtable community discussion hosted in December and takeaways from attendees. Commissioner Allison talked about her experience at the meeting. Amy

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McBride provided additional context, explaining that the roundtable was part of a larger plan within the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality to further develop equity policies and practices.

Commissioners were invited to join the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee of the Commission to help shape these efforts. Commissioners Wanda Thompson, Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem, Anna Holcomb, Sarah Woodson, Rosie Ayala, James Stowe, Benjamin Maestas III, Olivia Allison, and Elizabeth Pew have signed up.

d. Professional Development Update **5:31 pm (26:01)**

Staff shared that last June funds were set aside by the Commission to provide professional development training to community members. A survey was released in December to gather feedback on the kinds of workshops and resources artists in Tacoma are interested in. Staff gave an overview of the results, and priorities including: classes on building relationships and collaboration, equity and inclusion, looking within, financial management, legal, and marketing. There was also a desire for a quarterly artist networking group. Staff is using the feedback and working with partners to plan workshops on these topics that will roll out in the second half of 2020. These workshops will be free. Commissioners discussed and shared feedback.

5. Action Items

a. Reallocation of 2020 Arts Projects Funding **5:36 pm (31:33)**

Staff gave an overview of the Arts Projects funding program, and introduced artist Kellie Richardson and Christina Westpheling from the Tacoma Art Museum, who attended. Tacoma Art Museum applied for and was awarded \$3,000 in Arts Projects funding to host the proposed SOULstice festival founded by Kellie Richardson. It came to light recently that Kellie Richardson had not been consulted or contacted by the museum regarding the festival in 2020, or the use of her name and writing in the museum's application. Staff recommended pulling funding from Tacoma Art Museum because their application misrepresented the program and their relationship with Kellie Richardson. Commissioners discussed and asked questions. Chair Conklin called for a motion to withdraw the funding.

There was a motion: "I so move."

Motion: Michael Kula

Second: Michelle Douglas

Motion: Carried

Staff shared options for how to reallocate the \$3,000. Commissioners discussed. Chair Conklin asked Kellie Richardson if she would be interested in receiving the funds to host the SOULstice festival on her own. She said she was interested.

There was a motion: "I make a motion that the money originally allotted to Tacoma Art Museum be re-allotted to Kellie Richardson upon documentation of the proposed event."

Motion: Michael Kula

Second: Sarah Woodson



Motion: Carried

Christina Westpheling was invited to speak on behalf of the museum.

6. Staff Check-In

a. Tacoma Creates

6:05 pm (01:00:30)

Staff shared updates on Tacoma Creates: 2020 funding guidelines and applications are in development, session 3 of the after school program started today, advisory board applications are currently being accepted.

b. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

6:10 pm (01:05:45)

Staff shared updates on the following projects: staff has mostly been working on Tacoma Creates.

c. Public Art Updates

6:11 pm (01:06:04)

Staff shared updates on the following projects: Susan Zoccola's public artwork is almost completely installed, the Sun King sculpture has been temporarily moved into storage due to construction at the site, Tiffany Hammonds will be working with unhoused residents at 8th & MLK to create artwork for the fence there, Pierce Transit will be commissioning an artwork for the Waterwall downtown near the transit center, Dionne Bonner's Eastside Community Center Youth Memorial Mural final proposal has been approved, the call to artists is out for the PARC: Public Art Reaching Community training cohort, Diane Hansen's proposal for Tacoma Housing Authority's the Rise at 19th was approved.

7. Staff Check-In

a. Advocacy Reports

6:29 pm (01:24:21)

There were no items.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

6:30 pm (01:25:00)

Commissioners shared arts events and venues that they attended, upcoming events, or events they have been involved with including: Tacoma Youth Theater's production of Peter Pan.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

6:31 pm (01:26:05)

There were no items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm

