

**Members**

Robin Echte, *Chair*  
 Traci Kelly, *Vice Chair*  
 Lauren Walker, *City Council Liaison*  
 Marty Campbell, *City Council Liaison Alternate*  
 Jan Brazzell  
 Rachel Cardwell  
 J.D. Elquist  
 Chad Hall  
 Matt Hudgins  
 Donald Lacky  
 Dane Meyer  
 Zach Powers  
 Scott Ramsey  
 Catherine Stegeman  
 Mike Sweney  
 Wanda Thompson  
 Jana Wennstrom

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

### Community & Economic Development

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at [www.tacomaculture.org/arts/tac.asp](http://www.tacomaculture.org/arts/tac.asp).

**Staff**

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

Date: February 11, 2013

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Robin Echte, Chair  
 Traci Kelly, Vice Chair  
 Jan Brazzell  
 J.D. Elquist  
 Chad Hall  
 Matt Hudgins  
 Don Lacky  
 Dane Meyer  
 Zach Powers  
 Scott Ramsey  
 Catherine Stegeman  
 Mike Sweney  
 Jana Wennstrom

*Staff Present:*

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

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Rachel Cardwell  
 Wanda Thompson

<b>1. Call to Order</b>	<b>5:03 pm (00:01)</b>	<b>Chair Echte</b>
<b>2. Excusal of Absences</b>	<b>5:03 pm (00:24)</b>	<b>Vice Chair Kelly</b>
Commissioners Cardwell and Thompson had an excused absence.		
<b>3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes</b>	<b>5:03 pm (00:30)</b>	<b>Vice Chair Kelly</b>

Vice Chair Kelly said, "Do we get a motion to approve those?"

There was a motion: "Moved to approve."

Motion: Don Lacky

Second: Jana Wennstrom

Motion: Carried

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**4. Chair’s Report**

**5:04 pm (01:00)**

**Chair Echte**

Chair Echte passed on the Chair’s Report.

**5. Staff Check-In**

**5:04 pm (01:09)**

Broadway Center for the Performing Arts is bringing in Tony Bennett for a concert as a benefit for their education programs.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Paul Rucker will present a free public lecture with Thelma Jackson at University of Puget Sound.

Commissioners volunteered to meet with City Council Members as follows:

	<b>Robert Thoms</b>	<b>Anders Ibsen</b>	<b>Marilyn Strickland</b>	<b>Marty Campbell</b>
Commission Volunteer 1	Zach Powers	Matt Hudgins	Mike Sweney	Traci Kelly
Commission Volunteer 2	Scott Ramsey		Dane Meyer	
	<b>Lauren Walker</b>	<b>Victoria Woodards</b>	<b>David Boe</b>	<b>Ryan Mello</b>
Commission Volunteer 1	Mike Sweney	Zach Powers	J.D. Elquist	Traci Kelly
Commission Volunteer 2	Jan Brazzell		Scott Ramsey	

Thank you letters from Arts Projects funding recipients were passed around.

Commissioner Brazzell volunteered to sit on the review panel for the 2013-15 Tacoma Poet Laureate program.

Artspace will be holding a focus group for artists and arts organizations on May 9, 1:30 pm at the Broadway Center as they work on a feasibility study of artist live/work space in Tacoma.

**6. Action Items**

**A. Nominate Commissioner Elquist to the Tacoma Arts Commission Liaison Position on the Landmarks Preservation Commission**

**5:11 pm (08:02)**

Commissioner Elquist voiced his interest in filling the Tacoma Arts Commission liaison position on the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Chair Echte asked, “Do we have a nomination?”

There was a nomination: “I nominate J.D. for the liaison position.”

Motion: Mike Sweney

Second: Catherine Stegeman

Motion: Carried



A report back section will be added to future Arts Commission agendas so that Commissioner Elquist can inform the Arts Commission of updates from the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

## **7. Discussion/Updates**

### **A. Prairie Line Trail Steering Committee Update 5:13 pm (10:25)**

Vice Chair Kelly updated the Commission regarding the work the Prairie Line Trail steering committee had been working on. The Committee's design goals for the trail include: movement (connecting multiple areas with a path), gathering (providing attractive, safe, open spaces), being an economic catalyst (bring new development to downtown), connecting downtown districts, honoring history, culture (integrated public art), and nature (storm water management and natural features).

More information about the project will be presented at the March Arts Commission meeting.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions, including work being done on the trail by the University of Washington-Tacoma.

### **B. Pacific Avenue Green Flash Update 5:22 pm (19:01)**

Amy McBride presented updates on the Green Flash concept that artist Elizabeth Conner is creating for the Pacific Avenue streetscape project. The project will have elements that help clean the storm water before it enters the Thea Foss waterway. The Green Flash concept is being integrated into the construction phase of the project. Temporary interventions and block parties will be lined up to help engage people and get them downtown. Phase I of the project will be through May 2013; phase II, May – August 2013; and phase III, August – November 2013.

### **C. AMOCAT Awards 5:28 pm (25:50)**

Currently, the AMOCAT awards are nominated and voted on by the Arts Commission. There has been interest in bringing more visibility to the awards and Commissioners discussed what could be done. Ideas include:

- Pulling together a panel, which includes representation from the Commission as well as outside representatives, to pull together nominations
- Soliciting nominations from the artists and organizations in the Commission's three funding programs, and then having a separate panel narrow down the nominations, and having the Commission do the final vote
- Soliciting nominations from the past AMOCAT award recipients
- Including a list of past award winners as part of an open call to help avoid nominations of past recipients
- Having an open, public call for nominations to help raise visibility of the awards
- Looking at the public nomination process used by Seattle Metropolitan Magazine, which requires nominee's name and what they have done to deserve the award
- Having a panel review all public nominations and selecting the top three for each award category, then passing along those selection to the Arts Commission for final selection



- Selecting a panel that has name recognition, including previous year's winners
- Considering renaming the awards to "AMOCAT Arts Awards" or "City of Tacoma's AMOCAT Arts Awards" and having the Mayor announce the award winners and sign the awards
- Designing a more interactive awards event with live arts programming to raise the visibility

Staff will develop a draft process for the AMOCAT awards and bring it back to the Commission.

#### **D. Retreat Topics/Ideas**

**5:53 pm (50:20)**

Commissioners discussed possible topics to be covered at the Tacoma Arts Commission retreat including Art at Work Month planning and revamping, developing initial plans for the AMOCAT awards and opening event, a camaraderie-building exercise, and an overview of the last five years and next five years for the Arts Commission.

Chair Echtle asked for a straw poll regarding interest in attending a retreat this year. All Commissioners noted an interest in attending a retreat.

Staff will set up a poll to determine the best date for the retreat and will check to see if it can be held at Franke Tobey Jones.

#### **8. Report Back**

**6:06 pm (01:03:17)**

Commissioners shared arts events they had attended or been involved with including Asia Pacific Cultural Center's New Year Celebration; Tacoma Opera's production of Carmen, Lady Gaga concert; Museum of Glass' three new exhibits; Tacoma Art Museum's Native American celebration and Andy Warhol exhibit; and The Grand Cinema's Oscar Party, which is a fundraiser for the theater's conversion to digital projection.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm

