

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
Matt Hudgins
Donald Lacky
Dane Meyer
Zach Powers
Scott Ramsey
Catherine Stegeman
Mike Sweney
Wanda Thompson
Jana Wennstrom

Staff

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

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.

Date: April 8, 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
J.D. Elquist
Matt Hudgins
Don Lacky
Zach Powers
Scott Ramsey
Jana Wennstrom

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
Dane Meyer
Catherine Stegeman
Mike Sweney

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Wanda Thompson

Staff Present:

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist
Martha Anderson, Assistant Director, CEDD

Guests:

Andrew Buelow
Diane Hansen
Lisa Kinoshita
Claudia Riedener
Lynn Di Nino
John Carlton
Lance Kagey
Josie Emmons Turner

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|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | 5:09 pm (00:03) | Chair Echte |
| 2. Excusal of Absences | 5:09 pm (00:11) | Vice Chair Kelly |
| Commissioners Brazzell, Cardwell, Meyer, Stegeman, and Sweney had an excused absence. | | |
| 3. Chair's Report | 5:09 pm (00:22) | Chair Echte |

Chair Echte noted that the Commission will operate from the agenda and approve it when there is a quorum.

Chair Echte reported that Commissioner Hall resigned from the Commission.

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4. Staff Check-In**5:10 pm (01:09)**

One of the towers for the Water Forest public art piece was broken over the weekend of April 6 & 7. The tower has been removed and the rest of the piece is still operational and safe.

Work on the Bridge of Glass is continuing including plans to relamp the Seaform Pavilion with a LED system. The Crystal Towers have been relamped. Diagnostics is underway on the face of the Venetian Wall.

Spaceworks Tacoma has secured a \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. A recommendation is going through to support Spaceworks through a Community Development Block Grant. Heather Joy Helbach-Olds has taken over as coordinator of Spaceworks.

A thank you letter from Tacoma Youth Symphony Association was passed around.

Commissioners volunteered to attend funded events as follows:

date	organization	event	volunteer
5/3/13	Elements of Education - Robin Jaecklein	What the Frack? contemporary dance performance	Matt Hudgins
5/10/13	Puget Sound Poetry Connection	Distinguished Writer Series and Open Mic	Zach Powers
5/17/13	Second City Chamber Series	Masterpiece Series - Je ne sais quoi	Don Lacky, Robin Echtle
6/2/13	Fort Nisqually Foundation	Crafts of the Past	Don Lacky

Commissioners volunteered to meet with TAIP funded artists as follows:

artist	volunteer
Sean Alexander	JD Elquist
Carla Barragan	Jana Wennstrom
Alice Di Certo	Robin Echtle
Kyle Dillehay	Jana Wennstrom
David Domkoski	Don Lacky
Oliver Doriss	Traci Kelly
Sarah Gilbert	Traci Kelly
Meghan Mitchell	Jana Wennstrom
Mark Monlux	Scott Ramsey
Kat Ogden	JD Elquist or Don Lacky
Erik Steighner	Jana Wennstrom

The American Institute of Architects is hosting a Wii Tennis tournament on April 26 to support Spaceworks.

Sean Orlando and David Shulman were selected for Sound Transit's Tacoma Gateway public art project. Commissioners viewed a PowerPoint of their work.



5. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **5:20 pm (11:46)** **Vice Chair Kelly**

Vice Chair Kelly asked for “approval of the agenda and minutes from last meeting.”

There was a motion: “I so move.”

Motion: Scott Ramsey

Second: Jana Wennstrom

Motion: Carried

6. Presentations

A. ‘A’ Street Passageway Public Art Project **5:21 pm (12:01)**

Diane Hansen presented her public art proposal, *Tacoma Locks*, for Sound Transit’s ‘A’ Street Passageway project. Ms. Hansen was selected for the project through a competitive process as part of the Public Art: In Depth training program.

Ms. Hansen discussed how inspiration for the proposed interactive piece stems from an international project, Love Locks, wherein people attach locks en masse to specific fences to show their symbolic love for a place. Ms. Hansen presented images of her proposed project, to be sited on the central column of the ‘A’ Street Passageway. She will create giant keys of cast aluminum, inset with glass baubles, and attach them to the top of the columns. Steel mesh will be wrapped around the columns to hold locks.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions. Installation of the artwork is planned for October 2013.

7. Discussion/Updates

A. Art at Work Month Discussion **5:31 pm (22:33)**

Andrew Buelow represented Pierce County Arts and Cultural Executives in talking about a proposal to change Art at Work Month from November to October. This change would align with the start of performing arts organizations seasons, make it a kickoff event for the fall arts season, boost visibility of all performing arts, and garner more attention for a fall arts preview from local media.

Commissioners asked what organizations could do to help raise the visibility of Art at Work Month and if the change would garner more support for the month from organizations. Mr. Buelow noted he could not speak for other organizations but that the change in month would pose an opportunity for further conversation and that PC ACE performing arts organizations support the idea of this change.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions and discussed the proposed month change.

Staff will send out a survey to the community to gather feedback on all levels to gauge support for the proposed month change. Any possible change in month would not take place until 2014.

B. Retreat Follow-up **6:00 pm (51:33)**

Commissioners discussed possible changes to and support of Art at Work Month including the need for the Commission to take a more active role in developing conversations with arts organizations; the possibility of rebranding the month; updates to the AMOCAT Arts Awards and Opening Party; and marketing possibilities.

Commissioners volunteered to sit on Art at Work Month committees as follows:



AMOCAT Arts Awards & Opening Party Committee

Robin Echte, Matt Hudgins, J.D. Elquist, Don Lacky

Studio Tour Committee

Jana Wennstrom, Jan Brazzell

Marketing Committee

Traci Kelly, Zach Powers, Scott Ramsey, Matt Hudgins

8. Action Items**A. 2013-15 Tacoma Poet Laureate Recommendation 6:33 pm (1:24:13)**

Vice Chair Kelly gave an overview of the National Poetry Month proclamation that City Council presented on April 2.

The Tacoma Poet Laureate selection panel recommended Lucas Smiraldo as the 2013-2015 Tacoma Poet Laureate and Michael Magee as the alternate.

There was a motion: "I move that we accept the nominations for Poet Laureate."

Motion: Don Lacky

Second: Jana Wennstrom

Motion: Carried

The Tacoma Poet Laureate Celebration and Reading will be held on April 23, 6 pm at Tacoma Public Library. Josie Emmons Turner will be hosting a poetry reading on April 19, 7 pm at the Gallery at Tacoma Community College.

9. Report Back**A. Landmarks Preservation Commission Report Back 6:40 pm (01:31:40)**

Commissioner Elquist reported about activity on the Landmarks Preservation Commission including work with the Federal Building on A Street and a public hearing on April 10 for historic register nominations of the Browne's Star Grill building and the historic pavements on the North Slope.

B. Advocacy Reports 6:41 pm (01:32:56)

Commissioners reported back about council coffee meetings they have had in the past month including meetings with Council members Thoms, Boe, Ibsen, Lonergan, and Campbell.

C. Arts Events Attended 6:53 pm (01:44:07)

Commissioners shared arts events they had attended or been involved with including attending a Tacoma Arts Group meeting, possible inclusion of some Tacoma institutions in Google's interior mapping project, and an upcoming fashion show on May 3, 8 pm at Broken Spoke.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

