

Members

Heather Conklin, *Chair*
Rosie Ayala, *Vice Chair*
Lillian Hunter, *City Council Liaison*
Keith Blocker, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
Michelle Douglas
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Davis Freeman
Anna Holcomb
Paula Jacobson
Johnaye Kendrick
Michael Kula
Liesl Santkuyl
James Stowe
Wanda Thompson
Paul Throne
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
Sarah Woodson

Staff

Amy McBride, *Tacoma Arts Administrator*
Naomi Strom-Avila, *Cultural Arts Specialist*
Rebecca Solverson, *Public Art Specialist*
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: April 8, 2019

Location: 747 Market Street, Room 243

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Heather Conklin, *Chair*
Rosie Ayala, *Vice Chair*
Michelle Douglas
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Anna Holcomb
Paula Jacobson
Michael Kula
James Stowe
Paul Throne
Liesl Santkuyl
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
Sarah Woodson

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Davis Freeman
Johnaye Kendrick
Wanda Thompson

Staff Present:

Amy McBride, Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist
Asia Tail, Arts Program Coordinator

Guests Present:

Elisheba Johnson
Kristen Ramirez
Elizabeth Reeves
Kim Bedier
Don Lacky
Lua Pritchard
Jonathan Smith
Hillary Ryan
Juliana Morse Tsai

1. Call to Order

5:08 pm (00:04) Chair Conklin

Chair Conklin called the meeting to order and recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

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



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2. Consent Agenda **5:08 pm (00:30) Vice Chair Ayala**

Commissioners Freeman, Kendrick, and Thompson had excused absences.

Vice Chair Ayala asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda, adding action items for the artist selection for two public art projects, as well as minutes from the March meeting and retreat.

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Paul Throne

Second: Michael Kula

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report **5:10 pm (02:30) Chair Conklin**

Chair Conklin shared that she was looking forward to debriefing about the retreat later in the meeting.

4. Presentations – Transportation Advocacy Day **5:11 pm (03:00)**

Hally Bert from Downtown on the Go invited commissioners to attend Transportation Advocacy Day on May 6th, 1-3pm, to participate in discussions surrounding equity and the inclusion of artists in upcoming transportation changes.

5. Action Items

a. East 64th Streetscape Public Art Proposal **5:14 pm (06:55)**

Elisheba Johnson and Kristen Ramirez presented their final design for the East 64th Streetscape, including an overview of the community engagement events they've hosted thus far, and their inspiration drawn from cultural textile patterning. Artworks will be integrated in buffer strip art with imbedded graphic medallions, granite poetry markers, and stamped designs in color concrete. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I so move to accept the East 64th Streetscape proposal as presented."

Motion: Paula Jacobson

Second: Anna Holcomb

Motion: Carried

b. Microlibrary Wraps Public Artist Selection Approval **5:31 pm (23:05)**

The Tacoma Public library is planning to install new service kiosks in the Eastside and Hilltop neighborhoods, and 2 artists were selected to each design a wrap for a kiosk: Tiffany Hammonds, and Saiyare Refaei.



Gerardo Peña was selected to design a traffic box wrap for the Lincoln neighborhood.

Commissioner Woodson shared their experience on the selection panel.

There was a motion: "I will make a motion to accept the Eastside, Lincoln, and Hilltop wrap artists as presented."

Motion: Michelle Douglas

Second: James Stowe

Motion: Carried

6. Discussion/Updates

a. Arts Commission Annual Retreat Wrap-Up

5:42 pm (34:01)

Amy McBride led a conversation reviewing commissioner feedback collected from the retreat on arts community needs that will not be covered by Tacoma Creates. Commissioners made recommendations, discussed, and asked questions.

Chair Conklin and Commissioners Wilmot-Stenehjem, Holcomb, Kula, Stowe, and Fernandez-Llamazares volunteered to sit on a Funding Subcommittee to determine funding programs and application protocols for 2020.

Commissioners discussed the need for youth representation and broader neighborhood representation on the Arts Commission. Vice Chair Ayala and Commissioners Throne and Jacobson volunteered to sit on a subcommittee to further discuss making structural recommendations to City Council. Commissioner Thompson was nominated for the subcommittee.

Commissioners also discussed the need for additional resources going towards equity, diversity, and inclusion work, including training for commissioners, the development of clearer expectations for applicants, and professional expertise on demographic data collection and a city-wide baseline.

b. Tacoma Creates

6:32 pm (01:25:15)

The Creative Community Conversation meetings focused on Science and Culture sectors are scheduled for April. The City Manager approved opening 3 positions for hire for Tacoma Creates: manager, coordinator, and a program tech. Amy McBride gave an overview of additional developments related to the implementation of the Proposition 1 legislation. Commissioners are invited to volunteer for the upcoming events.



7. Staff Check In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

6:38 pm (01:30:56)

Staff shared updates on the following projects: Poet Laureate accepted position – Abby E. Murray, April 24 Pass the Torch event – volunteers needed, Tacoma Artists Initiative Project contracts underway – commissioners signed up to meet with individual artists, Arts Anchor Fund contracts underway.

b. Public Art Updates

6:46 pm (01:38:15)

Staff shared updates on the following projects: RYAN! Feddersen will install her piece on the Prairie Line Trail at the start of May, Prairie Line Trail signage will be ordered and installed this summer, Port of Tacoma call is due April 29, Horatio Law's final artworks in the Lincoln District, Kait Rhoads talked at the zoo on April 5, upcoming Gordon Huether and Maria Jost talks at the zoo on April 12 and 19.

8. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

6:54 pm (01:46:00)

There were no advocacy reports.

b. Arts Events Attended

6:54 pm (01:46:30)

Commissioners and staff shared arts events and venues that they attended, upcoming events, or events they have been involved with including: SOTA student production of Rent at Tacoma Arts Live.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

6:54 pm (01:46:55)

There were no items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

