

**Members**

Robin Echte, *Chair*  
Traci Kelly, *Vice Chair*  
Lauren Walker, *City Council Liaison*  
Marty Campbell, *City Council Liaison Alternate*  
Jan Brazzell  
Rachel Cardwell  
Sarah Idstrom  
Donald Lacky  
Bill La Vergne  
Dane Meyer  
Zach Powers  
Dawn Quinn  
Scott Ramsey  
Catherine Stegeman  
Mike Sweny  
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*

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Date: April 9, 2012  
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  
Rachel Cardwell  
Sarah Idstrom  
Don Lacky  
Dane Meyer  
Zach Powers  
Dawn Quinn  
Catherine Stegeman  
Mike Sweny  
Jana Wennstrom

*City Council Member Present:*

Lauren Walker

*City Council Member Absent:*

Marty Campbell

*Staff Present:*

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

*Public in Attendance:*

Elizabeth Conner  
Chris Storey  
David Nason  
Kathleen Figetakis

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Bill La Vergne  
Scott Ramsey

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1. Call to Order</b>                                                 | <b>5:04 pm (00:03)</b> | <b>Chair Echte</b>      |
| <b>2. Excusal of Absences</b>                                           | <b>5:04 pm (00:26)</b> | <b>Vice Chair Kelly</b> |
| Commissioners La Vergne and Ramsey had an excused absence.              |                        |                         |
| <b>3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda</b>                                | <b>5:04 pm (00:35)</b> | <b>Vice Chair Kelly</b> |
| Motion: Jana Wennstrom                                                  |                        |                         |
| Second: Dane Meyer                                                      |                        |                         |
| Motion: Carried                                                         |                        |                         |
| <b>4. Chair's Report</b>                                                | <b>5:05 pm (1:01)</b>  | <b>Chair Echte</b>      |
| The Commission congratulated Vice Chair Kelly on the birth of her baby. |                        |                         |
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Commissioner Edwards submitted a letter of resignation from the Commission on March 24, citing scheduling issues. A call for new Commissioners has been sent out.

## 5. Staff Check-In

5:06 pm (2:38)

Sound Transit is participating in the Public Art: In Depth artist training program. A call to artists has been sent out to PA:ID artists for the 66<sup>th</sup> Street Underpass. Another call will go out in the near future for two projects associated with D to M Street.

A call to artists has gone out for the purchase of visual art for the City's portable works collection.

Contract reduction amendments have been issued on all Arts Anchor Fund contracts.

The six finalists for the Seaport and Esplanade public art opportunities participated in a site visit and will be interviewed in May.

Commissioners volunteered to attend and evaluate funded events as follows:

date	organization	event	volunteer
5/11/12	Grand Cinema	72 hour Film Fest	Don Lacky, Rachel Cardwell
5/4/12	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	Happy Days	Don Lacky
5/5/12	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	Happy Days	Jana Wennstrom
5/5/12	Tacoma Symphony	Beethoven's Ninth	Rachel Cardwell
5/13/12	Tacoma Youth Symphony Assoc.	Tacoma Youth Symphony	Don Lacky

## 6. Presentations

### A. Pacific Avenue Streetscape

5:11 pm (7:25)

Ms. McBride introduced public artist Elizabeth Conner, David Nason from AHB�, and Chris Storey from the City of Tacoma.

Mr. Nason gave an overview of the Pacific Avenue Streetscape project between S. 7<sup>th</sup> to S. 17<sup>th</sup>. Streetscape improvements include replacement of sidewalks, addition of bike lanes, bus stop improvements, changes to parking stalls, and wayfinding. Storm water improvements include treatment of water through filters and basins, and the addition of rain gardens.

Ms. Conner presented her "green flash" concept of public art along Pacific Avenue. The concept would include the placement of green textural tiles in strategic locations along the 10-block stretch of street and 20 – 28 large-scale botanically-themed concrete sculptures that can convey storm water. The "green flash" concept will be integrated into 4 bus shelters.

Mr. Nason, Mr. Storey, and Ms. Conner answered questions from the Commission.

### B. Tacoma Arts Commission Retreat Wrap-Up

5:56 pm (52:40)

Commissioners reviewed a list of some of the ways that the arts support Education in Tacoma. The original list included:

- Art at Work Month
- Arts Envirochallenger



- Arts Symposium
- PA:ID
- Tacoma Art Place
- Multiple paths to educational success
- Prairie Line Trail installations
- Hilltop Artists
- TSO's Simply Symphonic
- 72-Hour Film Fest
- Free tickets
- Public art
- Arts opportunities for kids
- Arts Impact
- Educational outreach by many Anchor Fund organizations
- Arts Projects funding

Commissioners added that the arts contribute to Education through:

- Exposure
- Capacity building for artists of all ages
- Providing networking opportunities
- Correlation between Commission funding and organizations that provide accessible, quality arts education
- Building long-term audiences
- Offering scholarships
- Educating the whole community regarding the benefits of the arts
- In-school programming

Commissioners reviewed a list of some of the ways that the arts support Economic Development in Tacoma. The original list included:

- Arts Anchor Fund
- Education
- Estimated \$54 million economic impact in Tacoma
- Rich and diverse art programs makes Tacoma livable
- People want to live, work, and have business in a city that is attractive, safe and clean
- Commitment to the arts attracts young professionals, start-ups, families
- Improves business for restaurants, bars, coffee shops, etc...
- Creative people attract creative people
- 25% increase in visual artists/arts production workers in Tacoma (vs. 14% all artists in Tacoma, 8% statewide)
- Compliments Tacoma Public Schools
- Capacity building Arts Symposium
- Public art maintenance (essential)
- TAIP
- Spaceworks helps launch business and stir up foot traffic
- PA:ID



Commissioners added that the arts contribute to Economic Development through:

- The attraction of artists to the community because of those who are already here
- Ongoing Commission support on many levels and through many opportunities
- The visibility of the arts and public art, which show the city's investment
- The connections between arts and architecture
- Art at Work Month
- Attracting businesses to the area

## **7. Discussion**

### **A. 5% Admissions Tax Debrief**

**6:24 (1:20:39)**

The non-profit admissions tax ordinance failed in a 5-4 vote by City Council. Some positive outcomes were that arts organizations were part of the discussion and that there was strong representation by City Council.

### **B. Community Conversations**

**6:25 (1:21:28)**

Large arts organizations will participate in a follow-up meeting and discussion on April 27 at 4 pm at Museum of Glass. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Other larger community meetings will be held to look at the long-term sustainability of the arts in Tacoma. Washington State Arts Alliance would like to convene some conversations as part of their monthly meetings in Tacoma. The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation is looking into possible crossovers between their current arts benchmark study and hosting community conversations.

## **8. Report Back**

### **A. Arts Events Attended**

**6:45 (01:41:35)**

Commissioners shared arts events they have attended or things they have been involved in including producing The Pierce County Journal; meeting with ArtsFund's President & CEO, Mari Horita; the HIDE/SEEK exhibit at Tacoma Art Museum; and the Scapes exhibit at Museum of Glass.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

