

**Members**

Traci Kelly, *Chair*  
 Dane Meyer, *Vice Chair*  
 David Boe, *City Council Liaison*  
 Marty Campbell, *City Council Liaison Alternate*  
 Scott Campbell  
 Rachel Cardwell  
 Joel Chang  
 Heather Conklin  
 Matt Hudgins  
 Sarah Idstrom  
 Kareem Kandi  
 Halley Knigge  
 Donald Lacky  
 Mike Sweney  
 Wanda Thompson  
 Katrina Toft  
 Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

# Summary Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

### Community & Economic Development

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

**Staff**

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

Date: May 11, 2015

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Traci Kelly, Chair  
 Dane Meyer, Vice Chair  
 Scott Campbell  
 Rachel Cardwell  
 Joel Chang  
 Heather Conklin  
 Matt Hudgins  
 Kareem Kandi  
 Halley Knigge  
 Don Lacky  
 Wanda Thompson  
 Katrina Toft  
 Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem

*Council Members in Attendance:*

David Boe

*Staff Present:*

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
 Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist  
 Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist

*Guests:*

Mary Bowlby

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Sarah Idstrom  
 Mike Sweney

**1. Call to Order**

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

**Chair Kelly**

**2. Consent Agenda**

**5:04 pm (00:10)**

**Vice Chair Meyer**

Commissioners Sweney and Idstrom had an excused absence.

Vice Chair Meyer stated, "I'd like to entertain a motion to accept the agenda - the meeting agenda - and minutes."



There was a motion: “So moved.”

Motion: Halley Knigge  
 Second: Don Lacky  
 Motion: Carried

**3. Chair’s Report** **5:04 pm (00:44)** **Chair Kelly**

Chair Kelly thanked staff for organizing the Commission retreat and other projects.

**4. Action Items**

**A. Cancellation of July Meeting** **5:05 pm (01:24)**

Chair Kelly proposed canceling the July meeting of the Commission as a summer break.

There was a motion: “I motion that we cancel the July Arts Commission meeting.”

Motion: Heather Conklin  
 Second: Don Lacky  
 Motion: Carried

**5. Staff Check-In** **5:06 pm (02:18)**

The Hai Ying Wu sculpture, ‘Shipment to China,’ has been moved to the Foss Waterway Seaport. It will undergo restoration work by Adam Fah.

The repair and future of the Water Forest is being evaluated to determine ways to make sure the artwork is safe.

The City was awarded \$25,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to support Spaceworks Tacoma.

The Artspace Creative Space survey draft will be shared with the Commission at the June meeting.

Yuki Nakamura and Diane Hansen & Jennifer Weddermann’s public art at Bay Terrace will be dedicated on May 28, 5 – 6 pm.

The Arts Program will be embarking on a 5-year Art Plan. The consultants will attend a future meeting.

Commissioners volunteered to attend/evaluate funded projects as follows:

| <b>date</b>            | <b>organization</b>          | <b>event</b>  | <b>volunteer</b>                        |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| 05/30/15 -<br>05/31/15 | Fort Nisqually<br>Foundation | Crafts of the Past - Metal Engraving                        | Don Lacky                               |
| 06/06/15 -<br>06/07/15 | Fort Nisqually<br>Foundation | Crafts of the Past - Natural Dyeing                         | Heather Conklin                         |
| 5/16/15 -<br>5/17/15   | Isaac Olsen                  | It Takes a Village - A Found<br>Photography and Art Exhibit | Katrina Toft, Lynn<br>Wilmot-Stenehjem  |
| 5/23/15 -<br>10/11/15  | Museum of Glass              | Exhibit: Shirley Klinghoffer - CRT<br>Revisited             | Halley Knigge, Lynn<br>Wilmot-Stenehjem |



Commissioners volunteered to meet with TAIP funded artists as follows:

| <b>artist</b>        | <b>volunteer</b>      |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Saign Charlestein    | Halley Knigge         |
| Jennifer Chushcoff   | Traci Kelly           |
| Matthew Coté         | Dane Meyer            |
| Kristin Giordano     | Katrina Toft          |
| Michael Haeflinger   | Rachel Cardwell       |
| Whitney Henry-Lester | Dane Meyer            |
| Christopher Jordan   | Mike Sweney           |
| Jeremy Mangan        | Mike Sweney           |
| Janet Marcavage      | Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem |
| Tim Norris           | Heather Conklin       |
| Chandler O'Leary     | Heather Conklin       |
| Isaac Olsen          | Joel Chang            |
| Nichole Rathburn     | Dane Meyer            |
| Holly Senn           | Traci Kelly           |
| Emilie Shimkus       | Scott Campbell        |
| Gregory Youtz        | Kareem Kandi          |

## **6. Discussion/Updates**

### **A. Pop-Up Art Putt!**

**5:13 pm (09:46)**

Pop-Up Art Putt! is a temporary putt putt golf project, in collaboration with Tacoma Art Museum. On April 22, a panel met to select the artists who will be creating the temporary golf holes.

Vice Chair Meyer and Commissioners Toft, Chang, Conklin, Cardwell, and Knigge volunteered to help with Pop-Up Art Putt!

### **B. Upcoming Public Art Projects**

**5:17 pm (13:25)**

A call to artists for the Prairie Line Trail Spur has been released. The \$60,000 commission is to create permanent public art to attach to the light posts on the 15<sup>th</sup> Street spur.

Staff is working to release a \$50,000 call to artists for the creation of public art for the Water Flume Line Trail in South Tacoma. Staff is also working on logistics for a gateway public art piece for South Tacoma that is funded through State Farm.

Staff is managing a call to artists for Tacoma Housing Authority to create a permanent public art piece as well as a community engagement component at their Bay Terrace housing complex.

A call to artists for the Traffic Box Wrap Project will be released soon. 10 artists will be selected to each design an original piece of art to be transferred to vinyl and applied to traffic signal boxes around Tacoma. A separate call to community groups will be launched this summer to help select the community sites at which outdoor murals will be painted in 2016.



**C. The Arts and Tacoma 2025****5:29 pm (25:51)**

Commissioners reviewed the three Community Priorities of the Arts and Cultural Vitality core value of Tacoma 2025.

When considering the priority of “increasing participation in arts and culture,” Commissioners brainstormed who the Commission’s potential partners could be. Suggestions included: Tacoma Housing Authority, senior care, YMCA, YWCA, faith-based communities, Boys & Girls Clubs, culinary arts and restaurants, business districts, technology and digital education sector, marketing firms, commercial spaces including the mall, Latino community, Tacoma Public Schools, neighborhood groups, teens, developers, Puyallup Tribe, service organizations including the Korean Women’s Association, military, immigrant population including Tacoma Community House, detention centers, Rainbow Center, higher education (UWT, UPS, PLU, TCC, Bates, etc.), Ethnic Fest, corporate sponsorship, Sister Cities and international work, festivals, farmers’ markets, and sports and recreation.

When considering the priority of “leverage and strengthen Tacoma’s arts and cultural assets,” Commissioners brainstormed what our assets are. Suggestions included: Arts Anchor Fund organizations, City Council support, broad community support, Tollefson Plaza, community centers, general affordability, opportunities for art development, historic preservation, youth opportunities, walkability, natural assets including parks and waterfront, artist population, Tacoma Dome, aspiration to make improvements, receptive to ideas, easier access points, collaborations, working class roots, authenticity, creativity lab, diversity of population, museum district, theater district, festivals, farmers’ markets, and First Night.

Commissioners split into two teams and were assigned a core value of Tacoma 2025. Each team assessed what the core value meant, what is currently being done to address it, where there are gaps, and who our community partners are or should be.

**Education & Learning****a. Close the education achievement gaps****b. Prepare people to succeed in Tacoma’s workforce**

- What does it mean?
  - Start with early learning
  - Mentoring programs and apprenticeships
  - Providing opportunities to engage different media
  - Access to arts for all citizens
  - Entry level professional opportunities
- What is Tacoma already doing?
  - Tool library
  - Tacoma Youth Theatre
  - Public Art: In Depth training program
  - Children’s Museum of Tacoma’s art studio
  - Tacoma School of the Arts



- Arts EnviroChallenger
- Tacoma Youth Symphony
- Artists in residence
- Healing with Fire at Museum of Glass
- Hilltop Artists
- Tacoma Musical Playhouse
- Free tickets for schools
- Tacoma Symphony Orchestra's Mini Maestros
- Where are the gaps?
  - Artists in residence at all Tacoma Public Schools
  - Cultural arts in schools – especially underserved schools
  - Programming at the zoo and with Metro Parks Tacoma
  - Mobile gallery
  - Arts professional programs at technical schools
- Who can we partner with?
  - Tacoma Public Library
  - Tacoma Public Schools
  - Private schools
  - DSHS
  - Workforce
  - Arts-based businesses
  - Court system
  - Joint Base Lewis-McChord
  - Theater groups
  - Spaceworks Tacoma
  - Tacoma mall
  - Professional artists
  - Corporations
  - Higher education capstone projects

## **Human and Social Needs**

- a. Increase housing security**
  - b. Improve services to youth and vulnerable populations**
  - c. Reduce Poverty**
- What does it mean?
    - Working with affordable housing – using public art to create dignified spaces to live
    - Creating unique, beautiful spaces to increase pride and safety
    - Creating live/work space
    - Fostering skills including conflict resolution, arts, cooperation, self-esteem, empathy, life skills, job skills
  - What is Tacoma already doing?
    - Tacoma Murals Project



- Third Thursday access to arts
- Art Access pass at libraries
- Family-friendly events
- Spaceworks Tacoma
- Where are the gaps?
  - Lincoln District
  - Improving access at key areas that serve low-income residents
  - Homeless teens
  - Battered women and families
- Who can we partner with?
  - Hilltop Artists
  - Tacoma Youth Theatre
  - Tacoma Public Library
  - Fab-5
  - Hilltop Business District
  - Young Business Men
  - The Black Collective
  - Children's Museum of Tacoma

## **7. Report Back**

### **A. Advocacy Reports**

**6:40 pm (01:36:08)**

There were no reports.

### **B. Arts Events Attended**

**6:42 pm (01:38:44)**

Commissioners shared art events they attended or have been involved with including Anon(ymous) by Toy Boat Theatre, Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra, a jazz performance by Kareem Kandi, Tacoma Symphony Orchestra, Tacoma Musical Playhouse's production of Evita, Tacoma is for Lovers, SPUN at Children's Museum of Tacoma, Wayzgoose, Museum of Glass' Kids Design Too exhibit, National Arts Program exhibit, Tacoma Poet Laureate event, Mini Maestros, Cultural Congress, Kirkland Art Center, and King's Bookstore anniversary.

### **C. Future Agenda Items for Consideration**

**6:55 pm (01:51:15)**

Commissioner Toft asked how to advocate for additional staffing for Spaceworks Tacoma. Options discussed include Council Coffee meetings, additional meetings with Council, and inclusion as part of the 5-year art plan. Spaceworks Tacoma can present to the Commission at an upcoming Commission meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm**

