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.

Date: May 12, 2014  
Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16  
Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:  
Traci Kelly, Chair  
Jan Brazzell  
Rachel Cardwell  
Matt Hudgins  
Donald Lacky  
Dane Meyer  
Scott Ramsey  
Catherine Stegeman  
Mike Sweeney  
Wanda Thompson  
Jana Wennstrom

City Council Liaison in Attendance:  
J.D. Elquist, Vice Chair

Staff Present:  
Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist  
Martha Anderson

Guests:  
Stephanie Stebich, Alyce McNeil, Rock Hushka, David Bailey, Karen Langley, Jenifer Davis, Molly Wilmoth, Mylinda Sneed, Barbara Luecke, Claudia Riedener

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:  
J.D. Elquist, Vice Chair

1. Call to Order  
Chair Kelly  
5:05 pm (00:18)

2. Consent Agenda  
Chair Kelly  
5:05 pm (00:24)

There were no excused absences.

Chair Kelly asked if commissioners had a chance to review the minutes from the last meeting and the agenda for this meeting and stated, “If there are no adjustments to the agenda we can proceed.”

3. Chair’s Report  
Chair Kelly  
5:05 pm (00:44)

Chair Kelly and Commissioners Sweney, Brazzell, and Lacky attended the Washington State Arts Commission’s Regional Arts Forum on May 5. Chair Kelly attended a presentation given by Kim Bedier to the Economic Development Committee on the Warhol for the Tacoma Dome. She also attended Wayzgoose.
4. Action Items

A. Siting of Tacoma Art Museum Artwork on Right of Way 5:07 pm (2:25)
Stephanie Stebich, Rock Hushka, and Alyce McNeil presented on the Street Occupancy Permit request to place artwork on public Right of Way in front of Tacoma Art Museum.

The two pieces that are proposed for siting on Right of Way are:

- Scott Fife - “Explorers”, a 5’ tall bronze bear and 3’ tall bronze eaglet on a raft, to be sited where the current café patio is located.

Three additional pieces that are under development but will not be sited on Right of Way are:

- Julie Speidel – “Kinetic Repose”, ten stainless steel elements to be sited at the parking lot entry below the Museum.
- Jim Hodges – A sculpture playing with a camouflage pattern to be sited outside of the Pacific Avenue entrance.
- Sharon Nelson - A Coast Salish basket weaving design for the roof of the new building wing.

Risks that the Tacoma Art Museum is addressing and will assume include liability of climbing public artworks (attractive nuisance) and conservation/maintenance.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

Amy McBride asked, “Anybody want to make a motion to recommend the Street Occupancy Permit?”

There was a motion “So moved.” The motion covered the artwork of Scott Fife and Marie Watt.

Motion: Jan Brazzell
Second: Jana Wennstrom
Motion: Carried (Mike Sweney abstained)

5. Presentation

A. Sound Transit 66th Street Public Art Project 5:40 pm (35:42)
Claudia Riedener, Christopher Jordan, and Kenji Stoll presented their proposed public artwork for Sound Transit’s 66th Street Trestle. The artwork will be a combination of ceramic relief tile and latex and aerosol paint mural with a design that helps reflect the diverse community needs of many generations of residents. The proposal is inspired by topographical maps, textures, layers of history, historic buildings, and flora of the area. Some of the tiles on the north and south walls will contain
stamped quotes that will be gathered from community members. The mural will be composed of bright and vibrant colors in a warm palette. The project should be completed by the end of summer.

Commissioners talked about the proposal and asked clarifying questions.

6. Staff Check-In
6:22 pm (1:17:24)
The PAVE Bell sculpture has be reinstalled along Ruston Way.

Sun King is scheduled to be installed by the end of the week. The artist, Thomas Morandi, will attend the dedication on June 25.

Work is under way to get the Water Forest up and running again back to its original repaired condition.

Artspace will come to Tacoma the week of June 23 to work with local developers who have viable artist live/work projects.

Metal-Urge planning is under way and venues will begin reviewing artist submissions tomorrow.

The Arts Program is managing a public art project for Tacoma Housing Authority’s Bay Terrace development. Finalist artists will be interviewed for the project.

Work is under way to submit a Heritage Grant to create interpretive work for the Prairie Line Trail.

Metro Parks is potentially looking to implement a Percent for Art policy and looking at how that would be managed.

ArtsWA’s Regional Arts Forum to welcome Karen Hanan was held in Tacoma on May 5.

Kim Bedier presented on the Warhol for the Tacoma Dome to the Economic Development Committee. The Dome will test out a 6’ sample of the proposed product to see how it wears over time.

Commissioners volunteered to attend and evaluate the following programs that were funded by the Commission:

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<th>date</th>
<th>organization</th>
<th>event</th>
<th>volunteer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/30/14</td>
<td>Tacoma Musical Playhouse</td>
<td>La Cage Aux Follies</td>
<td>Don Lacky</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/4/14</td>
<td>Hilltop Artists</td>
<td>Arts Connect Showcase</td>
<td>Rachel Cardwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/6/14</td>
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<td>Matt Hudgins</td>
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7. Discussion/Updates

A. Tacoma Murals Project 6:31 pm (1:26:28)
Staff showed images of the six sites that were selected for the 2014 Tacoma Murals Project and work by the 16 artists who are part of the Tacoma Murals Project Lead Artist Roster. Each community will select their top three artists from this roster and staff will work to pair artists with communities based on these selections.

B. Tacoma Arts Month 6:37 pm (1:32:50)
The Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2014. The new logo for Tacoma Arts Month was presented. Applications are now being accepted for the Tacoma Studio Tour, to be held October 11 & 12. A Call for Activities will be released in a few weeks.

C. Arts Commission Annual Retreat Wrap-up 6:42 pm (1:37:28)
Commissioners and staff discussed the Strategic Objective of the Commission to “broaden community engagement in the arts.”

Goals of this initiative are:

- Increase participation, attendance, and pride by the general public in art events and activities offered in Tacoma.
- Maintain and increase access to participation in art-making and production by a diverse and broad cross-section of our community
- Increase financial support for the arts

Strategies to accomplish these goals include:

- Employ existing communications to their highest and best use:
  - Traditional press releases
  - City of Tacoma website
  - Facebook
  - Arts blog
  - TV Tacoma
- Actively connect with a wide variety of people/organizations
- Raise visibility through partnerships
- Align with the City’s overall vision and insure that the Arts are integrated into appropriate policy and planning

06/19/14 Washington State Historical Society In the Spirit 2014 exhibit and awards ceremony Don Lacky
- Commissioner ambassadors/advocacy
- Continue to support and develop programs that are effective and of interest and value
- Infuse arts into the City’s identity and incorporate into the City’s branding
- Build on STAR Communities findings

A second Strategic Objective could be to make arts part of Tacoma’s identity.

It was suggested to use the Marketing Committee to work through objectives, goals, and strategies.


A. Landmarks Preservation Commission
Vice Chair Elquist was not present to report back.

B. Advocacy Reports
There was nothing to report.

C. Arts Events Attended
David Bailey noted that he is helping produce a fashion show at LeMay - America’s Car Museum on June 28, 7 pm.

Commissioners shared arts events they had attended or have been involved with including Wayzgoose and Harvey Felder’s farewell concert at Tacoma Symphony Orchestra.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm