

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

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: May 14, 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
Rachel Cardwell
Sarah Idstrom
Don Lacky
Bill La Vergne
Dawn Quinn
Scott Ramsey
Catherine Stegeman
Mike Sweny

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Dane Meyer
Zach Powers
Jana Wennstrom

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Jan Brazzell

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:

Lisa Jaret
Laura Berry
David Thomas
Kathleen Figetakis
Andrea Lowen

1. Call to Order

5:06 pm (00:07)

Chair Echte

2. Excusal of Absences

5:06 pm (00:25)

Vice Chair Kelly

Commissioners Meyer, Wennstrom, and Powers had an excused absence.

3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

5:06 pm (00:34)

Vice Chair Kelly

Chair Echte recommended updating the agenda to reflect a switch in the order of the Discussion items with Arts Organization Convening Debrief before Art at Work Month.

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Rachel Cardwell

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Second: Don Lacky

Motion: Carried

4. Chair's Report

5:07 pm (1:13)

Chair Echtle

There was Chair's Report.

5. Staff Check-In

5:07 pm (1:22)

Ryan Petty, Director of the Community and Economic Development Department, will be leaving the City on May 25th. Martha Anderson will be the Acting Director.

Commissioners volunteered to attend and evaluate funded events as follows:

Date	Organization	Event	Volunteers
6/2/12	Northwest Sinfonietta	Schwartz Conducts Beethoven	Mike Sweney, Don Lacky
6/21/12	Washington State Historical Society	In the Spirit opening and awards ceremony	Robin Echtle, Don Lacky, Naomi
6/24/12	Fort Nisqually Foundation	Crafts of the Past - Judy Bridges (Native American Basket making)	Catherine Stegeman
7/14/12	Fort Nisqually Foundation	Crafts of the Past - John Salicco (Banjo making)	Don Lacky
7/15/12	6th Ave Business District	Art on the Ave	Dawn Quinn, Rachel Cardwell

Bret Lyon was selected for the Foss Waterway Seaport public art opportunity. Ed Kroupa was selected for the Esplanade public art opportunity. Both of these opportunities were available to Tacoma artists participating in the Public Art: In Depth training program.

Three finalists were selected for the 66th Street Underpass public art opportunity. The finalists are Claudia Riedener, Chris Sharp, and the artist team of Kenji Stoll and Chris Jordan.

Five mural sites were selected for the Tacoma Murals Project. They are:

1. Retaining wall of the 3200 block of East L Street
2. 220 Puyallup Avenue
3. 2502 Commerce Street
4. 5441 South Sheridan Street
5. 6323 McKinley Avenue

6. Presentations

A. Arts Education

5:16 pm (10:52)

Ms. McBride introduced Lisa Jaret, Arts in Education Program Manager for the Washington State Arts Commission.



Ms. Jaret gave an overview of the breadth of what counts as arts education including formal and informal programs, one-shot deals, audience experiences, and participatory programming. WSAC focuses on K-12 education and looks at how the arts contribute to whole-child education, how people learn, and cultivating demand for the arts.

She gave an overview of an outside study called “The Real Benefits of Visual Arts Education” which looked at “habits of mind” that are developed in studio arts classes. These habits include: developing craft, engaging & persisting, envisioning, expressing, observing, reflecting, stretching and exploring, and understanding the art world.

Ms. Jaret also gave an overview of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills framework, which was developed by a collective of business, government, and education people who came together to develop a vision for 21st century student outcomes and support systems. One of their focus areas is Learning and Innovation Skills which includes creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and communication and collaboration. She discussed how the arts align well with and support these skills.

7. Action Item

A. July Hiatus

5:53 pm (47:02)

Commissioners discussed canceling the July 9th meeting.

There was a motion: “I move we take the month of July off.”

Motion: Rachel Cardwell

Second: Catherine Stegeman

Motion: Carried

8. Discussion

A. Arts Organization Convening Debrief

5:53 pm (47:55)

Commissioners discussed the convening of arts organizations that took place on May 27. The meeting was valuable in giving a space to air feelings, share the reasons for the stance the Commission took on the admission tax issue, and to move forward with looking at the next steps. The Washington State Arts Alliance (WSAA) will host a follow-up meeting on May 23. A 12:00 – 12:45 pm focus group meeting will look at funding issues and long term strategies for stabilizing the arts. A 12:45 – 1:30 pm meeting will be open to the larger community. Commissioners discussed the need to have tangible goals for future meetings and possibly looking at alternate dates/times for the WSAA meetings. There is also a possibility to overlap community discussions with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation’s benchmarking study.

B. Art at Work Month

6:09 pm (1:03:03)



Ms. McBride gave an overview of available funding including a \$10,000 grant from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and staffing support for Art at Work Month. Staff has been in conversation with PC ACES to look at ways to better serve the needs of the community through the event. Some changes staff is looking at for 2012 include focusing on online and social media, having a mobile website, having less printed materials, replacing the Arts Symposium with an art forum, keeping the Studio Tours and AMOCAT Awards, and looking at ways to partner on the Opening Party.

Two main suggestions came out of the recent meeting with PC ACES. The first was to move Art at Work Month from November to October in order to align with a variety of events already happening in October. The second suggestion was to rename the event with a title that more clearly conveys what the event is about such as Art Surge, Art Works, or Art in Action.

Commissioners discussed the proposals but voiced concern with the impacts the changes would have on staff this year, and with wanting to engage the larger community in these major decisions. Commissioners were sensitive about acting quickly without first hearing from the broader community and without considering it more carefully. Considering the timeline, Commissioners felt the changes were not feasible for 2012. They would like to actively engage the larger community regarding these potential changes for 2013.

Commissioners discussed the AMOCAT Awards and decided to keep the three categories: Community Outreach by an Artist, Community Outreach by an Organization, and Arts Patron. Commissioners discussed nominations for 2012.

9. Report Back

A. Arts Events Attended

6:42 pm (01:36:45)

Commissioners shared arts events they have attended or things they have been involved in including Wayzgoose, Frost Park Chalk Off, the HIDE/SEEK exhibit and Biennial at Tacoma Art Museum, exhibits at Museum of Glass, and a Tacoma Symphony Orchestra concert. Commissioners were encouraged to make their presence known at events they attend in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

