**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.

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**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  
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist  
Lisa Jaret, Tacoma Creates Program Manager  
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager  
Asia Tail, Arts Program Coordinator

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**Date:** September 9, 2019  
**Location:** 747 Market Street, Room 248  
**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Heather Conklin, Chair  
Michelle Douglas  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Davis Freeman  
Anna Holcomb  
Paula Jacobson  
Michael Kula  
Liesl Santkuyl  
James Stowe  
Wanda Thompson  
Paul Throne  
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem  
Sarah Woodson

**Commission Members Excused Absence:**

Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair  
Johnaye Kendrick

**Staff Present:**

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager  
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist  
Asia Tail, Arts Program Coordinator

**Guests Present:**

Michael Liang  
Mike Sweney  
Don Lacky  
Adam Cook
1. Call to Order 5:06 pm (01:22) 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.

2. Consent Agenda 5:06 pm (01:51) Chair Conklin
Commissioners Ayala and Kendrick had excused absences.

Chair Conklin asked for a motion to approve the agenda, as well as minutes from the August meeting.

There was a motion: “I call to approve.”
Motion: Davis Freeman
Second: Michelle Douglas
Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report 5:07 pm (02:27) Chair Conklin
Chair Conklin welcomed new staff member Clarissa Gines. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

4. Action Items
a. 2020 Arts Projects Guidelines 5:11 pm (06:50)
Staff presented the proposed 2020 Arts Projects Guidelines, reflecting the changes in funding levels as approved by the Commission at the August meeting. Commissioners discussed and asked questions. A sign-up sheet for the Arts Projects funding panel was passed around – the commitment is one full day plus 10-15 hours of at-home review time. Staff is also looking for community panelist recommendations.

There was a motion: “I make a motion to accept the 2020 Arts Projects Guidelines as presented.”
Motion: Michelle Douglas
Second: Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
Motion: Carried
b. **TAC Seat Subcommittee Recommendations to Council**  
5:24 pm (20:00)  
Staff shared a summary of the Tacoma Arts Commission Seat Subcommittee recommendations. Commissioners discussed and asked questions. Commissioners signed a memo to the Economic Development Committee.

Chair Conklin called for a motion to accept the proposed memo and recommendations by the subcommittee.

There was a motion: “I so move.”
Motion: Wanda Thompson  
Second: Davis Freeman  
Motion: Carried

c. **Formation of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee**  
5:32 pm (28:30)  
The TAC Seat Subcommittee recommended the formation of an ongoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to meet quarterly. Commissioners discussed and asked questions. Chair Conklin called for a motion to initiate a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee starting in 2020. Commissioners Thompson, Wilmot-Stenehjem, Santkuyl, and Holcomb volunteered to sit on the committee.

There was a motion: “I so move.”
Motion: Liesl Santkuyl  
Second: Davis Freeman  
Motion: Carried

5. **Discussion/Updates**

a. **Tacoma Creates**  
5:38 pm (32:58)  
Staff provided updates on Tacoma Creates and Amy McBride shared the presentation she will be giving to City Council during Study Session on September 10th which covered background, progress and pilot projects released so far, challenges and recommended changes to the original legislation terms, methods to actualize the community impact intended, advisory board development, and next steps including final ordinance approval by the city council. Full funding applications will be available in the first quarter of 2020. Planning Grants applications were released on September 9 and will fund all eligible organizations at $10,000 to help with baseline data collection, internal infrastructure changes and set up for later full funding, preparing for future programming development, and any other planning and capacity building needed to prepare for the implementation of Tacoma Creates. Planning Grant applications are due September 30. Commissioners provided feedback on Amy McBride’s presentation and asked questions.
6. **Staff Check In**

a. **Tacoma Arts Month – Updates and Sign-Ups**
   
   6:11 pm (01:07:00)
   
   Staff shared updates on the following projects: performers and activities planned for the October 2 Tacoma Arts Month opening party - Kaleidoscope, the Arts Month proclamation on September 24, the dedication for Mauricio Robalino’s new public artwork and the portable collection at the Eastside Community Center, Tacoma Studio Tours – 56 locations and 96 artists participating this year, Facebook events for all Arts Month events are live – please share, over 200 community events have been submitted thus far, sponsors, design, studio tour prizes.

   Commissioners were asked to distribute Arts Month promotional materials and to sign up for Kaleidoscope volunteer shifts.

b. **Staff Projects Overview and Updates**
   
   6:24 pm (01:19:58)
   
   There were no additional staff updates to report.

c. **Public Art Updates**
   
   6:24 pm (01:20:00)
   
   Staff shared updates on the following projects: Creative Communications Roster application reviews were August 30th – 54 accepted out of 71 applicants, Eastside Community Center Micro-library wrap artist change to Dionne Bonner, Tacoma Housing Authority’s The Rise at 19th call to artists released, 2 artworks at Dune Peninsula are almost done, Dune Peninsula art walk dedication was Saturday September 7th, East 40th Street project first rain-activated sidewalk poetry installed by Write253 this past week – more in the series will roll out this fall, October 3 Prairie Line Trail art walk, Parking Day.

7. **Report Back**

a. **Advocacy Reports—Council Coffee Feedback**
   
   6:40 pm (01:35:23)
   
   There were no reports.

b. **Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended**
   
   6:40 pm (01:35:30)
   
   There were no updates.

c. **Future Agenda Items for Consideration**
   
   6:40 pm (01:35:45)
   
   Commissioner Thompson suggested finding ways for former arts commissioners to be included in activities and volunteer opportunities.

   **Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm**