Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission
Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality
Tacoma Venues and Events Department

Date: October 12, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Virtual

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.

Commission Members in Attendance:
Heather Conklin, Chair
Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Keith Blocker, City Council Liaison Alternate
Olivia Allison
Michelle Douglas
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Anna Holcomb
Paula Jacobson
Michael Kula
Benjamin Maestas III
Elizabeth Pew
James Stowe
MaryMikel Stump
Wanda Thompson
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
Sarah Woodson

City Staff Present:
Amy McBride
Chevi Chung
Naomi Strom-Avila
Rebecca Solverson
Lisa Jaret
Tammi Bryant

Guest Presenters:
Kristin Lynett

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:
Olivia Allison
Michelle Douglas
Paula Jacobson
Elizabeth Pew

1. Call to Order

Chair Conklin called the meeting to order. Chair Conklin recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

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“We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.”
2. Consent Agenda

There were no excused absences.

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

There was a motion: “I’d like to approve the consent agenda, which includes the meeting agenda for 10/12/20 as well as the meeting minutes from 09/14/20”
Motion: Chair Conklin
Seconded: Commissioner Maestas
Motion: Carried

3. Chair’s Report/Housekeeping

Commissioners provided a check in on how they are each doing.

4. Presentations

a. Climate Justice

Kristin Lynett, City of Tacoma’s Sustainability Officer, gave a presentation on Sustainability, Climate Resiliency, and Justice. Kristin talked about climate impacts that Tacoma is facing, covered real life local solutions, shared about the climate justice planning process, asked the Commissioners to share their own sustainability story, and concluded her presentation with a group exercise.

5. Action Items

a. Rapid Mural Program Artwork

Amy McBride shared the background about the Rapid Mural Program of Spaceworks and the Chamber of Commerce, which was launched at the beginning of the pandemic. Staff talked about the roster of artists painting boarded up retail areas and how the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality is working on the 10th Street Hill Climb, which is a property that belongs to the City of Tacoma. The Rapid Mural Program proposed that Nori Kimura paint a temporary mural for the 10th Street Hill Climb. The Commission’s approval of the mural is needed since this is a City-owned property.

There was a motion: “I move to accept the mural as presented.”
Motion: Chair Conklin
Seconded: Commissioner Stowe
Motion: Carried

b. Empathy Mural

Rebecca Solverson talked about Nathaniel Wagoner’s proposal to paint a temporary ‘Empathy’ mural on City property. There were comments and questions from Commissioners. Staff provided responses and clarification.

There was a motion: “I move that we accept the mural as presented.”
Motion: Commissioner Stump
Second: Commissioner Woodson
Motion: Carried
6. Discussion/Updates
   a. Commission Executive Committee Nominations (00:54:46)
      Naomi Strom-Avila gave an update on how nominations can be made for the Commission’s Executive
      Committee. Nominations will be accepted during the meeting and by email before the next Commission
      meeting in November. The Commission will vote on the Chair and Vice Chair nominations at the November
      meeting. Chair Conklin and Vice Chair Ayala gave an overview about their roles on the Executive Committee.
      Chair Conklin is stepping down from Executive Committee service in 2021. Vice Chair Ayala will be added to
      the ballot to consider for service on the Executive Committee in 2021.

   b. Tacoma Arts Month – Updates and Feedback (01:04:56)
      Chevi Chung gave an update about Tacoma Arts Month including art supply kit distribution in Tacoma Public
      Schools for middle and high school students, Community Engagement Projects, and Arts Commissioner Instagram
      take overs on social media. The Tacoma News Tribune’s article covered the following Community Engagement
      Project artists: Jamika Scott, Tamiko Nimura, Teruko Nimura, and Abby E. Murray. Commissioners shared
      feedback, talked about the public art tour map, the virtual Moon Festival, and the Barefoot Dance film screening.

   c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee (01:16:32)
      Commissioner Wilmot-Stenehjem, Thompson, and staff gave an update about the priorities of the Diversity, Equity
      & Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee as discussed that their last meeting. Priorities include: DEI training as an ongoing
      practice for the Commission, keeping DEI at the front and center for integration of Commission work, supporting
      the work of emerging artists within the current virtual platform, creating a living document that outlines the work
      that the Commission can do to support DEI, arranging listening sessions and community conversations for Artists
      of Color that are facilitated externally or by artists in the community who are doing DEI work, networking and
      connecting artists to local educational resources.

      The DEI Subcommittee requested feedback from the full Commission regarding priorities to work on and
      Commissioners discussed.

7. Staff Check-In
   a. Tacoma Creates (01:33:45)
      Lisa Jaret provided updates about the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board (TCAB) appointments and their first
      meeting. Tacoma Creates staff are reviewing September reports and writing up funding contract amendments.
      The new Tacoma Creates website is under review and very close to being ready for the public.

   b. Staff Projects Overview and Updates (01:35:45)
      Naomi Strom-Avila gave an update about Community Arts Project Funding including the virtual funding application
      workshop and requested suggestions for panel members. Staff provided a notification of the Community &
      Economic and Development Department’s COVID Resiliency grants to help support small businesses.

   c. Public Art Updates (01:39:22)
      Rebecca Solverson gave an update about RYAN! Feddersen’s “Mini Tahoma” proposal for the Pierce Transit
      Waterwall. Commissioner Maestas sat on the review panel and provided input. Staff gave updates about the
      Public Art Reaching Community temporary projects, the Rise at 19th project, and the Fireman’s Park project. Staff
      met with the Human Rights Commission Chair and staff about a potential Black Lives Matter mural.

8. Report Back
   a. Advocacy Reports (01:51:08)
      There were no items.
b. **Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended**
   There were no updates.

c. **Future Agenda Items for Consideration**
   There were no items.

9. **Adjourn**
   6:51 pm (1:51:39)

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**MEETING FREQUENCY**
Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm, venue to be determined based on health regulations. All meetings of the Tacoma Arts Commission are open to the public.

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