

**Members**

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

**Staff**

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist  
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist  
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

# 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](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes).

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Heather Conklin, Chair  
Rosie Ayala, Vice Chair  
John Hines, City Council Liaison  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Anna Holcomb  
Michael Kula  
Benjamin Maestas III  
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**

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

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.

ʔuk'wədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəł txwəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiif puyaləpabš dxwəsətəłlils gwəl ʔutxwəlšucidəbs həlgwəʔ.

“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

(00:33)

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

(01:02)

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

## 4. Presentations

(06:50)

### 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

(39:47)

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

(42:59)

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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** (01:51:12)

There were no updates.

c. **Future Agenda Items for Consideration** (01:51:28)

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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