

## 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 Santkuyll  
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*

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

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Date: October 14, 2019

Location: 747 Market Street, Room 248

Time: 5:00 pm

#### *Commission Members in Attendance:*

Heather Conklin, *Chair*  
Rosie Ayala, *Vice Chair*  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Davis Freeman  
Anna Holcomb  
Johnaye Kendrick  
Michael Kula  
Liesl Santkuyll  
James Stowe  
Wanda Thompson  
Paul Throne  
Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem  
Sarah Woodson

#### *Commission Members Unexcused Absence:*

Michelle Douglas  
Paula Jacobson

#### *Staff Present:*

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

#### *Guests Present:*

Don Lacky

### 1. Call to Order

**5:06 pm (00:21) 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.

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**2. Consent Agenda** **5:06 pm (00:41) Vice Chair Ayala**

There were no excused absences.

Vice Chair Ayala asked for a motion to approve the agenda, as well as minutes from the September meeting.

There was a motion: "I so move."

Motion: Wanda Thompson

Second: Sarah Woodson

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report** **5:07 pm (01:31) Chair Conklin**

Chair Conklin noted that the November meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 12.

Chair Conklin emailed the Economic Development Committee of City Council the memo that the Commission approved at their September meeting. She has not received a response yet.

The Tacoma Arts Month proclamation was passed around for Commissioners to read.

**4. Discussion/Updates**

**a. Commission Executive Committee Nominations** **5:09 pm (03:02)**

Commissioners will vote on Chair and Vice Chair positions at the November meeting. Chair Conklin and Vice Chair Ayala are willing to be considered for continued service in their current roles. Commissioners were invited to let staff know of any additional nominations.

Chair Conklin and Vice Chair Ayala gave an overview of the duties of the Tacoma Arts Commission Chair and Vice Chair.

**b. Tacoma Arts Month – Updates and Feedback** **5:12 pm (06:50)**

Staff thanked Commissioners for their assistance with Tacoma Arts Month promotion and events.

Commissioners shared their experiences regarding the Tacoma Studio Tour including that studios in East and South Tacoma were well attended and that print, radio, and social media promotional materials were appreciated. Feedback to consider: extend the Tacoma Studio Tour dates and/or hours, posters were easier to distribute to community locations than brochures.

There were about 450 attendees at Kaleidoscope. Commissioners share feedback including appreciation of the venue, density of programming, and location in East Tacoma.



**c. Outlier Funding Applications****5:23 pm (17:25)**

In previous funding rounds, there are occasionally applications that seem like they would fit into a different funding program. Staff has conducted basic eligibility review and let the panel make the final call on whether to consider an applicant. Staff is attempting to mitigate the issue by adding a note to the application guidelines to let people know about the other funding options available.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions. Suggestion were made to add information to the panelist review packet to notify panelists that they have the option to disqualify an applicant and have final discretion about eligibility, and to provide panelists with a basic outline of eligibility criteria.

**d. Literary Laureate****5:32 pm (26:33)**

Commissioners discussed the idea of opening the Tacoma Poet Laureate position into a Tacoma Literary Laureate position. Commissioners Stowe, Fernandez-Llamazares, Ayala, and Thompson volunteered to sit on a Literary Laureate Subcommittee spearheaded by Commissioner Kula.

There was a motion: "I would like to make a recommendation that Michael should go ahead and formalize a subcommittee to look into this and do further research and make a recommendation to the full Commission."

Motion: Wanda Thompson

Second: Liesl Santkuyl

Motion: Carried

**5. Staff Check In****a. Tacoma Creates****5:39 pm (33:00)**

Staff presented to City Council at Study Session on September 10 and received helpful feedback.

Staff presented updates to the proposed funding programs and eligibility guidelines. The goal is to outline eligibility criteria to stay within the legislation but fund organizations who are doing the work intended by Tacoma Creates. Commissioners asked questions.

Staff is drafting the ordinance. Fifty-four organizations applied for the 2019 Tacoma Creates Planning & Capacity Building grants. Applications are now available for the next round of Expanded Learning Opportunities funding. Tacoma Creates funding will help support Pierce Transit Orca passes for all Tacoma Public School high school students. There are currently two Participatory Budgeting processes happening in 98404 and 98409. There is a need for language access services.



**b. Staff Projects Overview and Updates****6:03 pm (57:18)**

Washington Film Works is focusing on Tacoma for a creative economy survey they are conducting.

**c. Public Art Updates****6:05 pm (59:35)**

Staff shared updates on the following projects: The artist team of Rick and Nathaniel were selected for the Eastside Community Center Youth Mural; applications close on October 14 for Tacoma Housing Authority's The Rise at 19th project; Metro Parks Tacoma will be launching a Community Impact Projects artist training program including 4 actual projects participants will compete for; staff is working on creating the online Creative Communications Roster; 37 traffic box wraps are almost complete; the Eastside Community Center Micro-library wrap created by Dionne Bonner was installed; a new wrap project will soon be available for Environmental Services' glass recycling centers; public art funding will be available to do a project in conjunction with the Hilltop streetscape; multiple pieces in the Municipal Art Collection are being maintained; Prairie Line Trail artwork walk.

**6. Report Back****a. Advocacy Reports****6:14 pm (01:08:20)**

There were no updates.

**b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended****6:14 pm (01:08:20)**

Commissioners shared arts events and venues that they attended, upcoming events, or events they have been involved with including: TAIP mid-project meetings with Sarah A. Chavez and Kim Davenport, book launch for Tacoma Poet Laureate Abby E. Murray, Dia de los Muertos community event at Tacoma Art Museum, Northwest Sinfonietta concert.

**c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration****6:17 pm (01:11:23)**

There were no updates.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm**

