Thank you to all our community members who participated in our first Creative Community Conversations event on January 24, 2018. It was an honor to hear about the exciting work being done in our city and a welcome challenge to learn of the concerns we share in furthering the development of arts and culture programs and projects in Tacoma. We carefully preserved everyone’s feedback and below is a summary of the data. Cross-cutting themes from the break-out groups are indicated in bold. We look forward to future conversations as we address these concerns and more.

We want MORE!

Opportunities for art

Art options for children
Public spaces for art and creation that are inclusive and diverse
Funding/support for arts and culture
Gatherings
Relevant options
Locations and opportunities for youth to engage in arts, heritage, science and culture
Art therapy/art and healing
Venues throughout the city
Festivals
Free Walls
Space for art venues and galleries

Education and Training

More art in schools; not just athletics and after-school programs
Mentorship and tutoring
Training for artists at varying stages of development (youth to senior/emerging to professional)
Tie-in to whole child initiative/social-emotional learning
Apprenticeships
Professional development/access to content expertise
Arts education for adults
Increased partnerships with colleges/universities
Conventions, symposia, workshops for artists
Partnership with Tacoma Public Schools
Access
Affordability of activities and events (sliding scale)
Transportation
A variety of art forms in all neighborhoods
Increased access to arts in underserved areas, particularly for children
Events are accessible for all

Involvement
Embed artists in strategic thinking
Regular gatherings for artists to meet and exchange ideas/information
Networking opportunities
Community-led conversations
Connection to community partners and business

Equity
Ensure all involved are receiving quality, meaningful, and challenging equity training
Culturally relevant programs and materials
Activities that allow everyone to see themselves reflected
Connection to and opportunities for people with disabilities, people of color, low-income, immigrants, LGBTQ, seniors, vets
Build relationships in communities/don’t just “plunk” something into a community
Collaborate with groups already working in equity and social justice
Spaces for art performance and creation in East and South Tacoma
Language barriers addressed
All are represented

Communication
Opportunities for community feedback (community-led)
Methods to engage with specific communities who aren’t currently being reached
Community mapping to show ‘art deserts’ as well as art resources
Communication tools geared toward ‘non-art’ households
Shared marketing about events and opportunities
Community feedback opportunities (events, surveys, etc.)
Calendar/opportunities, events, and activities website and app

The January 24, 2018 Creative Community Conversation event was presented by the Tacoma Arts Commission in partnership with Spaceworks Tacoma and the Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County and hosted by SKY Creative.