

## Members

Rosie Ayala, Chair  
Benjamin Maestas III, Vice Chair  
John Hines, City Council Liaison  
Keith Blocker, City Council Liaison Alternate  
Olivia Allison  
Jasmine Brown  
Heather Conklin  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Anna Holcomb  
Michael Kula  
Elizabeth Pew  
Jeanette Sanchez  
Jamika Scott  
James Stowe  
MaryMikel Stump  
Alejandra Villeda  
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: August 9, 2021**

**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).



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### *Commission Members in Attendance:*

Rosie Ayala, Chair  
Olivia Allison  
Jasmine Brown  
Heather Conklin  
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares  
Anna Holcomb  
Michael Kula  
Elizabeth Pew  
Jeanette Sanchez  
James Stowe  
MaryMikel Stump  
Alejandra Villeda  
Sarah Woodson

### *City Staff Present:*

Amy McBride  
Chevi Chung  
Rebecca Solverson  
Naomi Strom-Avila  
Lisa Jaret

### *Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Benjamin Maestas III, Vice Chair  
Jamika Scott

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## 1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:21)

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

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiif ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiif puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłlils 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 (00:39)**

There were two excused absences: Vice Chair Maestas III and Commissioner Scott.

Chair Ayala asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from the June 14 meeting.

There was a motion: "I move that we approve the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from June."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Commissioner Holcomb

Motion: Carried

**3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:07)**

Chair Ayala led a check-in with personal updates from Arts Commissioners.

**4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (19:20)**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**5. Action Items**

**a. Tacoma Mall Area Greening Artist Selection (20:13)**

Staff gave an update about the artist selection for the Tacoma Mall Area Greening project, which is in partnership with Environmental Services. Staff shared about the development of the Tacoma Mall area and the community engagement projects in places near the Tacoma Mall. Staff announced that the two artists selected for the projects are Alex Schelhammer and Teruko Nimura. Commissioner Villeda added comments about the panel process and artists. Commissioners asked questions.

There was a motion: "I so move that we take the subcommittee's recommendation to move forward with the recommended artists."

Motion: Chair Ayala

Seconded: Commissioner Woodson

Motion: Carried

**b. Community Arts Projects Funding Priorities (32:16)**

Staff gave an update about the Community Arts Projects funding priorities and requested input from the Arts Commission about the draft language. Arts Commissioners discussed and provided input for modifications to the priorities language. Commissioners discussed the requirement that projects have to be produced within Tacoma city limits and wording around scholarships.

There was a motion: "I will move that we vote to keep funded projects within the city of Tacoma limits."

Motion: Commissioner Woodson

Seconded: Commissioner Stump

Motion: Carried with 1 opposed

There was a motion: "I will move that we allow staff to devote more language around accessibility particularly in relation to this question and that we might revisit this at the next meeting."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Seconded: Undetermined Commission Member

Motion: Carried

## 6. Discussion/Updates

- a. Municipal Art Collection Deaccession, Accession, and Gift Policy Subcommittee (1:18:47)**  
Staff gave an update about the Deaccession, Accession and Gift Policy Subcommittee meeting from July and shared a draft of the policy. Commissioners discussed.
- b. Tacoma Arts Month Updates and Sign-ups (1:31:11)**  
Staff gave an update about Arts at the Armory; a total of 9 applications have been received so far. Staff gave an update about the newly redesigned light pole banners in partnership with the Downtown Tacoma Partnership. Staff gave a preview of the newly redesigned TacomaArtsMonth.org website with a specific focus on the social media import functionality and highlighted the events calendar page. Staff gave an update about the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TV Tacoma special program and the AMOCAT Arts Awards. Staff asked for volunteer sign-ups to support materials pickup and distribution plus the Arts at the Amory event load-in, event staffing, and cleanup October 15-17. Commissioner asked questions.
- c. DEI Subcommittee (1:44:47)**  
Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares gave an update about the DEI subcommittee's last meeting on July 16 including discussion of a Resmaa Menakem podcast, operating norms and agreements, reading the Cultural New Deal, and revising the Equity and Inclusion Statement from 2017.

## 7. Staff Check-In (1:49:37)

- a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates**  
Staff gave an update on the status of Tacoma Arts Commission meeting and how meetings are remaining virtual at this moment in time, there's no timeline yet on a hybrid and in-person option.
- b. Public Art Updates (1:49:55)**  
Staff gave an update about the Totem Pole removal and the cedar tree blessing from Connie McCloud, Culture Director, Puyallup Tribe of Indians. Staff gave an update about returning pieces of the cedar tree to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians for future carving projects by Puyallup Tribal artists. Staff gave an update on the East 64<sup>th</sup> Street project and how the art was installed and a dedication. Staff gave an update about the Tacoma Arts Museum and Human Rights Commission partnership on the Black Lives Matter mural and that Dionne Bonner was selected to paint this mural in Tollefson Plaza.
- c. Tacoma Creates (1:56:20)**  
Staff reminded Commissioners to check the TacomaCreates.org website for local activities.

## 8. Report Back

- a. Advocacy Reports (1:56:46)**  
There were no advocacy reports.
- b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended (1:56:46)**  
There were no funded project updates and arts events attended.
- c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration (1:56:46)**

There were no items for consideration

**Adjourn**

**7:02 (1:57:06)**

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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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