

Members

Kenya Shakoar, Chair
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair
Aleks Aurelion
Connie Behe
Katie Dean
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Joe Williams
Heidi Wygle
Jamika Scott, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

Daniel Garcia, Community Programs Specialist
Ricky Reyes, Public Art Project Manager
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Program Manager
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Arts & Cultural Vitality Division

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: May 13, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual and in-person

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at

www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes

Commission Members in Attendance:

Kenya Shakoar, Chair
Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair
Aleks Aurelion
Connie Behe
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Michael Kula
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jeanette Sanchez
Jes Takla
Joe Williams
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

Daniel Garcia
Lisa Jaret
Ricky Reyes
Rebecca Solverson
Naomi Strom-Avila

Guest Presenters:

Julie Davidson
Abby Woods
Natalie Dupille
Whitney Brady
Anida Yoeu Ali

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Katie Dean

1. Call to Order

5:05 pm (00:06)

Chair Shakoar called the meeting to order. Chair Shakoar 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 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 (00:42)

There were no excused absences.

Vice Chair Brown asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the agenda for the May 13 meeting as well as the minutes from the April 7 and April 8 meetings.

There was a motion: "I'll move that we accept the consent agendas."

Motion: Commissioner Kula

Seconded: Commissioner Nunn

Motion: Carried

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping (02:04)

Chair Shakoor shared that Councilmember Scott will attend the June meeting for the first Council Liaison report out. Davida Ingram will be starting her position as Division Manager for the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division on May 20.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (02:49)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations

a. Fundee Highlight (03:20)

Chair Shakoor introduced Julie Davidson and Abby Woods, who collaborated to produce the Caribbean Queens Festival, which was held in April and funded in part through the Community Arts Projects program. Julie and Abby shared the background for the festival, a video overview of the event, and successful planning and marketing approaches. They shared that Community Arts Projects funding leveraged additional community support for the event and that they are working on plans for future year-round programming using a fiscal sponsor. Commissioners shared feedback, comments, and questions.

b. Public Works Artist in Residence (22:00)

Staff introduced Natalie Dupille, who is the new Artist in Residence for the City of Tacoma's Public Works Department. Natalie shared samples representing her past personal artistic practice and projects. Natalie shared about her work so far as the Public Works Artist in Residence. Natalie's initial project includes an environmentally themed Pride mural at 9th & A Street and 9th & Pacific Ave and traffic box wraps and work on visual communications for the Streets Initiative. Longer term projects include the Public Works Transportation Master Plan and an art plan for Public Works.

6. Action Items

a. Hilltop Plaque Project (38:47)

Staff introduced Whitney Brady and shared an overview of the Hilltop Plaque Project. Whitney shared that the project will help honor people and places significant to Hilltop. The project has changed over time and has been influenced by the transportation planning and implementation work going on as well as the late involvement of an artist in the process.

The initial 9 engraved granite markers are focused on people who have made an impact on community; content has been driven by community input and is focused on Black history of the neighborhood. The pieces will be inset in the sidewalk, outside the main walkways, and the project will include an overall

map and signage of all the pieces and an online component. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I would move that we accept these plaques into our collection so that we can maintain them and support Whitney as he goes about creating them."

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez

Second: Vice Chair Brown

Motion: Carried

b. AMOCAT Arts Awards (1:07:11)

Staff shared about the AMOCAT Arts Awards Subcommittee's work and their recommendation to update eligibility so that a previous awardee can be reconsidered after a 5-year waiting period. The subcommittee also recommended that decisions about posthumous nominations and special awards be decided on an ad-hoc basis when the situation arises. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

There was a motion: "I move to allow for a change in the eligibility section of the AMOCAT Awards process to instill a five year period where a previous award winner could become eligible."

Motion: Commissioner Behe

Second: Commissioner Hoppe

Motion: Carried

c. Cancellation of July Meeting (1:13:06)

Chair Shakoor introduced how the July meeting of the Commission is typically canceled each year to allow for a summer break.

There was a motion: "I move [to cancel the July meeting]."

Motion: Commissioner Joe Williams

Second: Commissioner Sanchez

Motion: Carried

7. Discussion/Updates

a. Arts Commission Retreat Session Reflection (1:14:23)

Staff shared on screen the digitized 'Exquisite Tree' creations that were made at the Commission's retreat on April 7. Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

b. Funding Subcommittee Update (1:22:05)

Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares shared an overview of the subcommittee's work including developing a list of gaps/needs related to funding. Commissioners were invited to join the next subcommittee meeting in June. Staff will create a survey of all identified gaps/needs and send out to the Commission for prioritization to help inform the subcommittee's work.

8. Staff Check-In (1:26:39)

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Meeting with Councilmember Scott in preparation for spring meetings with Councilmembers

- Staff have submitted proposals for the 2025-26 Arts budget in the General Fund. This includes a request for public art staffing and additional money for Arts Funding
- Professional development workshop at Parable with Joy Muhammad and Claudia Linares
- Release of an artTown segment featuring Kristina Batiste
- Social media share out about the Environmental Services Artists in Residence

b. Public Art Updates

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Dedications for Metro Parks public art projects at the aquarium and Melanie’s Park
- Training program in McKinley neighborhood led by Spaceworks Tacoma
- Development of a Native artist roster in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe
- Dedication for the Eastside Community Center Mural on June 1
- Eight murals in the works

c. Tacoma Creates

Staff shared that applicants are being sought for the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board. There are five open seats and applications are due June 9.

9. Presentations

a. Art Delegation Trip to Jogjakarta, Indonesia

(1:36:09)

Anida Yoeu Ali shared a presentation about her work organizing an art delegation trip to Jogja and Jakarta, Indonesia. The goal is to look at non-western "art city" models as inspiration for Tacoma’s creative economy. The presentation included a request for Commission support either financially and/or with connections for support. Presenters, Commissioners, and staff discussed, provided suggestions, and asked questions.

10. Report Back

(02:05:26)

a. Advocacy Reports

Chair Shakoor shared about a funding opportunity with Washington Filmworks.

b. Funded Project Updates/ Upcoming Arts Events/Arts Events Attended

Commissioners shared about events they have attended or been involved with including:

- DJing opportunity
- Upcoming projects funded through Community Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

There were no items.

11. Adjourn

7:15 pm (02:10:03)

MEETING FREQUENCY

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm. All meetings of the Tacoma Arts Commission are open to the public.



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