

**Members**

Robin Echtle, *Chair*  
 Sarah Idstrom, *Vice Chair*  
 Julie Anderson, *City Council Liaison*  
 Lauren Walker, *City Council Liaison Alternate*  
 Jan Brazzell  
 Rachel Cardwell  
 Phillip Hill, *LPC Liaison*  
 Janice Karroll  
 Traci Kelly  
 Donald Lacky  
 Bill La Vergne  
 Janet Matzke  
 Kristi Nebel  
 Margaret Payne  
 Jacqueline Peterson  
 Michael Reynolds  
 Mike Sweney

# Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission Community & Economic Development

**Staff**

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
 Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist

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Date: February 9, 2009

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Robin Echtle, Chair  
 Sarah Idstrom, Vice-Chair  
 Jan Brazzell  
 Janice Karroll  
 Traci Kelly  
 Don Lacky  
 Janet Matzke  
 Kristi Nebel  
 Jacqueline Peterson  
 Mike Sweney

*Staff Present*

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator  
 Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist

*Guests Present:*

Ryan Petty

*City Council Member Present:*

Julie Anderson

*City Council Member Absent:*

Lauren Walker

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Rachel Cardwell  
 Phillip Hill  
 Margaret Payne  
 Michael Reynolds

*Commission Members Absent:*

Bill La Vergne

**1. Call to Order****5:05 pm****Chair Echtle****2. Excusal of Absences****5:05 pm****Vice Chair Idstrom**

Commissioners Cardwell, Hill, Payne and Reynolds had an excused absence. Commissioner La Vergne was absent.

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**3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes****5:06 pm****Vice Chair Idstrom**

Motion: Jackie Peterson

Second: Jan Karroll

Motion: Carried

**4. Chair's Report:****5:06 pm****Chair Echtle**

Chair Echtle, Vice Chair Idstrom and Naomi Strom-Avila met with Tacoma Little Theater board and staff including new Artistic Director, Scott Campbell; Office Manager, Lorelei Ives-Keeler; Interim Artistic Director, Doug Kerr; and Board President, Micheal O'Hara. They talked about the current changes going on at TLT including restructuring the organization, recruiting a board with diverse expertise, and working to alleviate debt. They are restructuring their education program to include a progression of educational courses as well as a summer touring program for youth with a goal of developing a self-supporting education program. For their season performances, they are choosing to put on a variety of new, high quality productions. One of their hurdles is to regain the trust of their patrons. They plan to tackle this by addressing the ambiance of the theater-going experience and raising the quality of the productions. They also plan to use online marketing to help build their audience base.

**5. Staff Check-In****5:20 pm**

Staff saved their check-in for the Report Back section of the meeting.

**6. Presentation****Angelou Economics Study****5:20 pm****Ryan Petty**

Ryan Petty, Director of the Community and Economic Development Department of the City of Tacoma, presented on the Angelou Economics study that was recently conducted. He explained that local economic development happens when the economy grows by exporting more goods and/or services to the outside world and bringing in more money from outside the local community.

The arts are an economic development tool for Tacoma by bringing in non-Tacoma residents to our community. While the arts have a \$36.76 million financial impact on the local economy, its bigger impact is the ability of the arts to change a place and attract people to it.

The Angelou Economics study included an economic impact statement that helped measure the impact of downtown development on the rest of the city, county and state. An economic development strategy looked at the strategy for the next 15 or 20 years. While the study was done before our current economic climate, most of the study's conclusions will still be valid once we resurface in a more stable climate again. One strategy is to develop Tacoma as the downtown for the South Sound. The study focuses on different aspects of the arts including digital media and graphic design, artisan studios, industrial design and culinary arts.

One of the prioritized recommendations from the study is to develop an arts-centered or arts-motivated signature event for Tacoma. One model is to have a local non-profit organization put on the event a few years out. A feasibility study could be done to look at developing the event so that it has momentum from its inception.

Other long-term ideas are to develop a creative arts training center in Tacoma and to create a special B&O tax category for the arts and then lower the rate in that category. Julie Anderson volunteered to informally bring up the idea to City Council.

## 7. Action Items

### A. TAIP Funding Recommendations

5:56 pm

The Tacoma Artists Initiative Program panel met to review 40 applications with a total request of \$161,477. They chose to recommend \$45,000 of funding for 17 artists working in all fields of the arts - literary, performing, interdisciplinary and visual arts.

The panel recommended funding as follows:

	<b>Artist</b>		<b>Recommended Amount</b>
Chandler	O'Leary	\$	3,500.00
Claudia	Riedener	\$	3,360.00
William	Kupinse	\$	3,140.00
C. Rosalind	Bell	\$	3,000.00
Becky	Frehse	\$	3,000.00
Robin	Jaeklein	\$	3,000.00
Maria	Jost	\$	3,000.00
Mauricio	Robalino	\$	3,000.00
Nicholas	Stokes	\$	3,000.00
	Anderso		
RR	n	\$	2,500.00
Fumiko	Kimura	\$	2,500.00
Victoria	Bjorklund	\$	2,000.00
Matthew	Johnson	\$	2,000.00
Steven	McElrath	\$	2,000.00
Amy	Reeves	\$	2,000.00
	Robacke		
Tammy	r	\$	2,000.00
Chholing	Taha	\$	2,000.00

Commissioner Sweney noted that over 40% of the applicants were funded.

Commissioner Nebel asked if any musicians were funded. Two applied but were not funded.

A slideshow of art by funded visual artists was presented.

There was a motion:

“I’ll move to accept the recommendations of the funding committee.”

Motion: Jackie Peterson

Second: Mike Sweney

Motion: Carried

### B. Deaccession Committee

6:10 pm

An ad-hoc deaccession committee will meet to look at items in the Municipal Art Collection that are damaged or hard to site and decide whether or not to remove them from the collection.

The deaccession committee will include Janae Huber from the Washington State Arts Commission, Jim McDonald from the 4Culture board, and Lynda Rockwood who has consulted with the City about its Municipal Art Collection.

Commissioners Karroll, Nebel, and Lacky volunteered to sit on the panel as well. The date and time for the deaccession panel will be determined.

## **8. Report Back**

### **A. Local Artists: How We Serve Them 6:16 pm**

A list was presented to the Commission that outlined ways that the City currently supports its local artists. The goal is to build capacity for our artists and make them as competitive as they can be. The list includes specific programming in the categories of funding programs, Art at Work month, calls to artists, public art projects, training, and potential projects.

Commissioner Kelly suggested the idea of having a Commission liaison for each of the neighborhood councils for the Innovative Grants program. The liaison could facilitate and be aware of the Innovative Grant applications to hopefully make the applications more successful. Any requirements that the Innovative Grants program stipulates that affect the Arts Commission, including that funding would be approved only if the pieces would be accessed in the Municipal Art Collection, should have Commission involvement from the start.

Commissioners were asked to add any other ways the Commission serves our local artists to the list.

Commissioner Karroll asked if the Commission has any way to list small art organizations in Tacoma. The TacomaCulture.org site has a list of funded organizations but we are legally unable to list unfunded organizations.

Staff is looking into possibilities of creating an interactive public art tour.

### **B. Metal-Urge 6:29 pm**

Nine years ago, the City's art program produced Metal Urge to help build cultural tourism. Metal Urge 2009 would line up with an upcoming exhibit at the Tacoma Art Museum. Local galleries and museums could hosts metal-themed exhibits and the City would produce collective promotional materials for it.

Staff will collect a list of Tacoma galleries who would like to participate in Metal Urge. A call to artists will be sent out to gather a list of prospective artists whose work can be exhibited at these galleries.

### **C. Annual Report Final Draft 6:33 pm**

Commissioners received a final draft of the 2008 annual report.

It was suggested to disseminate the report to Anchor Fund organizations, Arts Projects recipients, TAIP funded artists, City Council members, City Manager, TacomaArt listserv, new commissioners, and the Executive Council. It should also be posted on TacomaCulture.org.

### **D. Retreat and Leadership 6:38 pm**

Terry Taylor has been hired to facilitate the Arts Commission retreat. She has requested the Commission to identify who its stakeholders are. Commissioners listed the following as a partial list of stakeholders: local artists, non-profit organizations, City Council members, education community (including students, interns, mentors and teachers), seniors, patrons, downtown businesses, developers, Tacoma citizens, taxpayers, those who are unaware of the arts community, street citizens, tourists, and the region.

Commissioners are asked to complete additional homework that involves dissecting what the stakeholders expect of the Commission, how stakeholders define the success of the Commission and what the Commission does to help stakeholders succeed.

**9. Good of the Order**

**6:48 pm**

A resolution to show support for the Cultural Access Fund will be presented to City Council on February 10.

Amy and Naomi attended Arts Day in Olympia on February 3. They spoke with elected officials about current issues under consideration in Olympia including the Cultural Access Fund, increasing the number of days non-profits can rent out their facilities to for-profit groups, and extending King County's hotel/motel tax. We also talked about the detrimental effects of suspending the state's half a percent for art program which employs around 80 artists a year.

Commissioners were asked to sign up if they would like to be on the mailing list for funded organizations and artists.

Commissioners were invited to attend a Wintergrass funding recognition event on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners were also asked to sign up if they would like Wintergrass passes.

Commissioner Kelly announced that the Museum of Glass will be hosting Lino Tagliapietra in the hot shop on February 11 – 15, 9 am – 3 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm