

Members

Robin Echte, *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

Date: May 11, 2009
Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 16
Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Robin Echte, Chair
Sarah Idstrom, Vice-Chair
Jan Brazzell
Phillip Hill
Janice Karroll
Traci Kelly
Don Lacky
Bill La Vergne
Janet Matzke
Kristi Nebel
Michael Reynolds
Mike Sweney

Staff Present

Martha Anderson, Assistant Director, CEDD
Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist

Guests Present:

Judy Durkin
Lynn Eisenhauer

City Council Member in Attendance:

Julie Anderson

City Council Member Absent:

Lauren Walker

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Rachel Cardwell
Margaret Payne
Jacqueline Peterson

1. Call to Order	5:06 pm	Chair Echte
2. Excusal of Absences	5:06 pm	Vice Chair Idstrom
Commissioners Cardwell, Payne and Peterson had an excused absence.		
3. Approval of Agenda	5:06 pm	Vice Chair Idstrom

Approve the agenda with the word “draft” removed from the document.

Motion: Bill La Vergne

Second: Janet Matzke

Motion: Carried

Approval of Minutes

5:06 pm

Vice Chair Idstrom

Motion: Kristi Nebel

Second: Bill La Vergne

Motion: Carried

4. Chair’s Report:

5:06 pm

Chair Echtle

Chair Echtle welcomed presenter Lynn Eisenhauer from ArtsEd Washington. On May 5, City Council proclaimed May to be Arts Education Month in Tacoma.

Commissioners received copies of poetry anthologies that were funded in part by the Commission – *Fallow* by William Kupinse and *In Tahoma’s Shadow* by Exquisite Disarray Publishing. The News Tribune ran an article about the anthologies.

5. Staff Check-In

5:08 pm

The Arts Commission is invited to a celebration of the collaboration between local artists, open space advocates, and Point Ruston. The event is hosted by Point Ruston on June 1 from 5 – 7 pm on the Point Ruston ferryboat.

The Water Forest pieces have been assembled. The next step is to check the lighting and other components to make sure they are working.

6. Presentation

A. Arts Education

5:10 pm

Lynn Eisenhauer, Arts

Facilitator, Tacoma Public Schools and ArtsEd Washington

Lynn Eisenhauer, Arts Facilitator for the Tacoma School District and ArtsEd Washington board member, presented to the Tacoma Arts Commission.

ArtsEd Washington works in partnership with the Kennedy Center to advance arts education in Washington through leadership, partnership and communication. They meet yearly with legislators to reinforce the importance of arts education. Lynn works in the district to develop and provide professional development for arts teachers. She also works with principals and teachers to imbed arts within the schools and advocates for equal access for all children to quality arts education.

Lynn is currently working with arts instructors and arts education leaders from around the state to write the dance Grade Level Expectations. She is also working on developing classroom-based performance assessments.

Lynn believes that the arts are a vital part of education, schools have an obligation to provide equitable access to the arts for all students, creative solutions and flexible leadership is needed, creativity is important and can be taught, and that we are stronger together than apart.

Washington’s Core 24 increases the graduation requirement for all high school seniors including increasing art requirements to 2 years of high school art at benchmark 3 or above. The schools currently do not have the facilities, staff or courses that will serve student needs under these requirements.

Of the certificated arts staff in Tacoma public schools, currently grades K-12 have music staff; grades 6 – 12 have visual art staff, some theater staff, and a small dance program.

SOTA provides a quality education but it is drawing a lot of resources from the district into one school. The school only serves 400 students out of 29,000 in the district. Ideally, there would be other magnet schools to help provide for the needs of more students. Unfortunately, there are not enough resources to support all these.

The effectiveness of arts outreach programs offered through the Commission's Anchor Fund organizations is dependant on the scope of their outreach. One day field trips or programs have a very limited impact but programs that are tied to professional development for the teachers have a greater impact. Ongoing learning experiences have the greatest impact.

Lynn suggested that the Arts Commission could help influence the school board to have them assert that they want arts education and that they create policy to foster it.

Lynn suggested reading *A Whole New Mind* by Daniel Pink and listening to Sir Ken Robinson's keynote address at the 2006 TED conference.

7. Action Items

A. De-accession Committee

5:45 pm

Commissioner Karroll reported on the Municipal Art Collection de-accession committee recommendations. The de-accession panel met on April 16 and was comprised of Jim McDonald, Janae Huber, Lynda Rockwood, and Commissioners Nebel, Karroll, and Lacky.

The de-accession policy helps protect the public art collection from changing whims of people by setting guidelines on what criteria must be met to allow a piece of public art to be de-accessioned from the collection. Some of the criteria are: inability to site the piece, site alteration, the piece is broken beyond repair, etc... When a piece is de-accessioned, the creating artist is notified and has the opportunity to purchase the piece back at cost or material value. If the artist does not want the piece back, it needs to be destroyed.

Artist	Title	Recommendation
Joanne Hammer	Mirage	The committee voted unanimously to de-accession this piece due to its inability to be sited and its poor condition. They noted that if a site were to be found for the piece, it would continue to disintegrate at a rapid rate as the fiber acts as a filter and collects a lot of dust. If it were to be kept in the collection, the piece would require re-mounting and as the piece is fragile, the cost to install could equal or exceed the value of the piece. The panel recommends the piece be destroyed.
Torrey Lavik	A Fish Eye View of Tacoma	The committee unanimously voted to de-accession this piece after a significant effort has been put forth to re-site it. Over the next six months (starting 4/16/09) City of Tacoma staff will work to find a site for the piece in a city building. If no City-owned site is found the panel recommends the piece be offered as a transfer in ownership to Pierce County Arts Commission to be re-sited in a public location within the county. It was suggested that the piece could be offered for re-siting in the City/County building that it was originally created for

		or sited in another city building such as Puyallup. If a new site cannot be found within Pierce County, the piece should be offered to the artist for salvage or trade for new work. If the artist does not want it, the piece will be sold to the public. If the piece fails to sell, it will be destroyed.
Torrey Lavik	Flight in Motion	The committee unanimously voted to de-accession this piece after a significant effort has been put forth to re-site it. Over the next six months (starting 4/16/09) City of Tacoma staff will work to find a site for the piece in a city building. If no City-owned site is found the panel recommends the piece be offered as a transfer in ownership to Pierce County Arts Commission to be re-sited in a public location within the county. It was suggested that the piece could be offered for re-siting in the City/County building that it was originally created for or sited in another city building such as Puyallup. If a new site cannot be found within Pierce County, the piece should be offered to the artist for salvage or trade for new work. If the artist does not want it, the piece will be sold to the public. If the piece fails to sell, it will be destroyed.
Torrey Lavik	Keeping a Watchful Eye	The committee unanimously voted against de-accessioning this piece as it is currently sited in a public space in the city (Rialto Theater) and they find no grounds for de-accession. However, it was decided that if Pierce County Arts Commission should decide to resite Torrey Lavik's other two pieces (Flight in Motion and A Fish Eye View of Tacoma) to the City/County Building, which was the original site the pieces were created for, then the ownership of all three pieces of artwork should be transferred to the Pierce County Arts Commission.
Meredith Essex and Students	Image Art Tone School Ceramic Mural	The committee voted unanimously to de-accession this piece. Besides loss of site and site alteration, the committee found that the piece is temporary in nature. It was created through the education department of the Tacoma Art Museum and is the product of an educational experience. It was not intended to be a fine-art piece. Additionally, it is unclear whether or not the piece is a part of the City's collection. The committee decided that the piece should be offered first to the artist (Meredith Essex), then to the collaborating artist (Jon Ketler), then to the Tacoma Art Museum. If none of these parties claim the artwork, it will be destroyed.
John Rogers	Untitled (porcelain wall mural)	This piece is high maintenance, it has been poorly sited, and its relocation to another site is unlikely to be successful. It was relocated circa 1991, and the wall it now occupies is to be removed during a planned remodel. The piece is fragile and will probably not survive removal to another location. The committee voted unanimously to de-accession this artwork, and to allow the artist and/or WSAC to salvage pieces of it, if desired. When it was first installed, most of the tiles that make up this piece were glued into French cleats on large sections of wood that were

		then attached to the wall. When the piece was removed, the tiles were kept in place and the entire work was moved in sections. In order to attach the artwork in its new location, whole sections were screwed to the wall in no particular order and with no documentation, It is estimated that 25 percent of the tiles will break if the piece is removed from its current location due to the fragility of the porcelain tiles. A significant amount of tiles have already broken off from the piece. The missing tiles have been tastefully replaced by in-house carpenters. Even so, the committee finds that the intent of the artwork has been compromised because of the missing pieces and it is now damaged beyond repair.
John Smith	Destiny Duck Drawing	The committee unanimously voted to de-accessioning this piece due to its aesthetic value and the temporary nature of this acquisition. It was commissioned to promote a city festival (1987 Summer Pops!) and was not intended to be included in the city's fine art collection. The piece will be de-accessioned and kept as an historical document in the city's archive files, the files of the Tacoma Public Library, or in another suitable location within the city.
Andrew Keating	Adrift	The committee unanimously voted against de-accessioning this piece. It was created by a notable Pacific Northwest artist. The artwork is found to have significant cultural value for the City of Tacoma. The committee believes that the piece can be restored to its original condition. The artwork should be repaired if it can be done at a reasonable rate (under \$2,500). The Tacoma Art Museum may have interest in the painting if the City of Tacoma is unable to restore the piece within budget.
Steve D'Accardo	Man and His Music	The committee unanimously decided to de-accession this piece from the collection because it is missing. The artist will be notified but no effort will be made to duplicate the image.
M. Hollembeck	Untitled (Wood carving-mountain goats)	The committee unanimously voted to de-accession this piece due to its inability to be sited and its aesthetic value as they felt it was commercial in nature. They recommended that an attempt be made to sell the piece on consignment to the public. If it fails to sell, the piece will be destroyed.
Laddie Watson	Variety of etchings	The committee unanimously decided to keep all framed and accessioned pieces of Laddie Watson's work and to keep one copy of every unframed piece of the editioned sets in the artist's file. The panel recommended that the pieces which are already framed be checked for quality and, if needed, to switch out a framed print for a higher quality unframed print. They recommended that all other unframed/non-accessioned prints be sold. They noted that there is no need to de-accession the unframed/non-accessioned pieces because they were never accessioned into the collection. Staff will check the current framed and unframed collection and if any of the prints are found to have been accessioned, they will remain in the collection.

Commissioner Brazzell asked what factors contributed to the decision of which pieces to sell and which pieces to destroy upon de-accession. The determination is made based on several factors including: whether the panel feels a piece could sell; if the piece is considered a fine art piece, the panel wants to handle it as such and site it in a public venue; the chances of someone being able to resite the piece to the artist's original intent; and the current state of the piece.

Commissioner Kelly asked whether pieces that were never accessioned into the City's collection need to be treated or tracked in a special manner. Amy McBride noted that the City keeps files on pieces that are not officially in the City's collection but that they want to keep records of for various reasons such as the City owns the piece or was involved in the creation or placement of the piece. Not every piece merits being in the City's collection but that doesn't prevent pieces from accumulating for different reasons. As such, the City keeps separate files for these pieces to track them.

Commissioner Nebel asked what constituted a poor quality print. Commissioners Kelly and Sweney noted that poor quality prints could be attributed to the paper or ink used in printing, poor registration, and inexperience in drawing prints.

Commissioner La Vergne asked if we knew how much the pieces being recommended for de-accessioned were worth. Amy McBride noted that it is important to take into consideration the money required to maintain and reinstall pieces. Commissioner Sweney noted that artwork has a life expectancy and is not expected to last forever. Amy McBride noted that the pieces underwent a rigorous review process to make sure that the Commission is being a good steward of the public's money and that we are taking care of the work we do have and not letting it fall into disrepair. Councilwoman Anderson noted that she felt confident and comfortable with being able to respond to any public inquiries regarding the recommendations of the panel. Chair Echte noted that this was a good example of the Commission's obligation to the artists to take care of their work that is accessioned into the City's Municipal Art Collection.

Commissioner Lacky asked what will happen to the Destiny Duck drawing if the archives do not want the piece. Amy McBride and Naomi Strom-Avila noted that the City does not have a formal City archives; the City will either find another suitable location for the piece or put it in the non-accessioned artwork files. The piece will not be destroyed.

Chair Echte asked, "Do we have a motion to approve the recommendations of the de-accession committee?"

There was a motion: "So moved."

Motion: Phil Hill

Second: Traci Kelly

Discussion: Commissioner Brazzell said that she would like to look into the possibility of putting an auction of the de-accessioned pieces on the City's website or auctioning the pieces on EBay, noting that if the work was purchased by the public initially, then they should have an opportunity to bid on it before it is destroyed. The funds raised could go towards the artwork maintenance fund. Amy McBride noted that the Commission needs to protect against the idea of selling off artwork on a whim just to raise money. The collection is protected by the de-accession policy to prevent this from happening. She also noted that the City has very strict guidelines for selling and surplus items so even though the de-accession policy has guidelines for the process which pieces need to go through, it still needs to follow the City's process for surplus; this prevents the Commission from directly auctioning pieces off. Commissioner Sweney noted that the pieces under recommendation for de-accession have no commercial value except for scrap materials. He warned against pieces being sold to the public for scrap materials because they are unique works and there are copyright issues to take into consideration. Councilwoman Anderson added that it is important to take into consideration the effort involved in auctioning off pieces vs. the amount of funds that could be recouped. It is unlikely that the effort involved in auctioning off pieces would result in any profit.

Motion: Carried

B. Sun King Re-siting Option

6:14 pm

The Sun King sculpture, by artist Thomas Morandi, used to be sited in front of the Sheridan. It is currently in storage and needs a new site.

The proposed site is at the south end of the Thea Foss, adjacent to the D Street overpass. In this site, the piece would be surrounded by green space. The sculpture is naturalistic as well as reflective of architecture. The piece could respond to the rising and setting of the sun.

Commissioner Kelly noted that the Museum of Glass has been asking that the piece be sited on the Thea Foss Esplanade. She noted that she would talk with the Museum of Glass and Vetri to see if they would be willing to write a letter of support for the relocation of the sculpture.

The bronze sculpture was appraised in the 1990s for around \$70,000. It is worth much more now. The artist is out of Oregon and has an established reputation. The piece needs to be repatinated.

Commissioner Sweney asked whether the piece was a direct purchase or a site-specific piece. Amy McBride said she believes it was affiliated with work that was being done on Broadway to turn the area into a mall. The artist created the piece for the site in front of the former Sheridan but he has been contacted and said he is fine with resiting the piece.

There was a motion:

“I move that we accept Amy's recommendation to resite the sculpture.”

Motion: Mike Sweney

Second: Jan Brazzell

Motion: Carried

Commissioner Reynolds amended the motion with: “I think it is a terrific idea to resite this and I am wondering, if in the course of doing that, we can perhaps contact the artist about what sort of foundation/base/plinth/whatever which should be an extremely important part of resiting it, and so I'd like to have that as a part of our encouragement, not that it just be planted in the lawn but it be properly positioned and related to that, not just the base and the foundation but it there is an opportunity for decorative lighting.”

C. Mixed-Use Centers Art Bonus Feature Code Review 6:19 pm

The code under consideration has been drafted by the Planning Commission who is re-writing their comprehensive plan to include bonus features in mixed-use centers. A bonus is for developers who want to build something bigger or taller than what the code allows. Developers can trade out for some sort of public benefit, including the option of public art.

The wording of this code says the proposed public art would be reviewed by the Tacoma Arts Commission to ensure public benefit.

The proposed code is:

Value	Description	Bonus Height
<u>Public Art (0.5%)</u>	<u>A feature worth 0.5% of the value of the building (as calculated using the latest Building Valuation Data published by the International Code Council), to be installed on-site, exterior to the building with a location and design that benefits the streetscape, or in an approved off-site location within the same Mixed-Use Center and within 1,000 feet of the project site. Art features shall be coordinated with the City's Arts Administrator and approved by the Arts Commission.</u>	10 Feet
<u>Public Art (1%)</u>	<u>A feature worth 1% of the value of the building (as calculated using the latest Building Valuation Data published by the International Code Council), to be installed on-site, exterior to the building with a location and design that benefits the streetscape, or in an approved off-site location within the same Mixed-Use Center and within 1,000 feet of the project site. Art features shall be coordinated with the City's Arts Administrator and approved by the Arts Commission.</u>	20 Feet

c. The Land Use Administrator, or their authorized agent, shall have the authority to require any and all necessary agreements, as they deem appropriate, to ensure that projects utilizing the height bonus program maintain all required bonus features for the life of the project. Any such agreements shall be in a format acceptable to the City Attorney and shall be recorded on the title of the property.

Chair Echtle asked, "Do I have a motion to approve the language?"

There was a motion: "I so move"

Motion: Bill La Vergne

Second: Phil Hill

Motion: Carried

8. Report Back

A. Marketing/Communications Committee

6:23 pm

Commissioner Reynolds reported that the Marketing & Communications Committee, comprised of Commissioners Cardwell, Sweney and Reynolds, has recently met. He noted that the work of the committee is not done.

The committee decided that they would not focus on branding the arts in the City of Tacoma. Ideally, in the future, the City would have a coordinated place management project and the arts can be some part of that discussion.

The committee is focused more on marketing and communication tools that can help elevate the visibility of the work of the Arts Commission. Future committee meetings will focus more on the development of policy recommendations to be brought to the Commission for their approval. The committee is also reviewing the types of tools and mechanisms the Commission can use to get the Commission's identity better recognized and more uniformly communicated to the public.

B. Cultural Congress

6:26 pm

Naomi Strom-Avila reported back about the Washington State Arts Alliance's annual Cultural Congress she attended and presented at.

The conference provided an important opportunity to network with other arts administrators, arts organizations and artists from across Washington.

She presented a session titled "Presenting Effective Arts Programming with Limited Resources." The session focused on Art at Work month, how the Commission puts the event together, and how we leverage what already exists and develop partnerships to put the event together.

C. Anchor Fund

6:30 pm

Chair Echte asked the Commission if they had any further ideas about what the intent of the Anchor Fund program is.

Commissioner Karroll suggested that no one is entitled to Anchor Fund money unless they are exceptional in the community in a specific way. She wanted to see the criteria for these qualifications laid out more clearly.

Commissioner Kelly noted that this discussion has come up before and that the decision at that time was to let the Anchor Fund panel for each biennium define what "Anchor Fund" means to them. She would like to see the Commission more clearly define "Anchor Fund" so that the Commission does not have to deal with this same discussion each biennium.

Chair Echte noted the importance of having a clear understanding of what an Anchor Fund is so that the applicant organizations know what the Commission is looking for in their applications.

An Anchor Fund Subcommittee Task Force was assembled comprised of Commissioners Brazzell, Lacky, Nebel, Karroll and Hill; Chair Echte and Vice-Chair Idstrom.

9. Report Back

6:40 pm

Commissioner Kelly met with Mauricio Robalino for his TAIP mid-project meeting. She was able to see his studio and the piece he is working on for the Washington State Arts Commission. His work is colorful, lively, textural and playful. He had approximately 30 digital drawings printed out for the meeting. The drawings will be approximately 20" x 30" in the final output. He is using the tools purchased with TAIP funding for new techniques in his work.

Commissioner Karroll reported that she and Commissioner Reynolds just finished jurying 160 pieces of artwork for The National Arts Program employee art show.

Commissioner Reynolds noted that he attended the 72-hour film festival at the Rialto; the theater was packed and the audience was very lively. He also attended a full-house performance of the season finale of the Tacoma Symphony joined by the Tacoma Symphony Chorus.

Chair Echtle attended The Producers at Tacoma Musical Playhouse. She thought the piece was very well done; it received positive reviews. She also helped jury Norm Dick's 9th Congressional District high school art competition.

Commissioner Karroll attended The Producers at Tacoma Musical Playhouse and thought the performances of the two male leads were phenomenal. She also attended Northwest Sinfonietta's Music Off the Walls at the Tacoma Art Museum. It was well attended and entertaining.

Commissioner Hill met with Tammy Robacker for her TAIP mid-project meeting. He noted that her work is excellent.

Commissioner Lacky attended the Northwest Repertory Singers concert; it was a packed venue and the concert was impressive. He also attended a concert of the Tacoma Concert Band; the Pantages was only about 1/3 full but the concert was excellent.

Commissioner La Vergne attended the Lily Tomlin presentation at the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts; the Pantages was full with audience members spanning a broad range of ages.

Vice Chair Idstrom and Commissioner Brazzell attended SOTA's annual fundraising event. The event was well attended with a strong base of support from parents and helped raised money for the school.

Commissioner Reynolds suggested writing a letter of thanks to Bill Kupinse for his service in the position of Tacoma Poet Laureate.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm