

Members

Phillip Hill, *LPC Liaison, Chair*
Margaret Payne, *Vice Chair*
Julie Anderson, *City Council Liaison*
Jake Fey, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
Robin Echte
Sarah Idstrom
Jan Karroll
Traci Kelly
Bill La Vergne
Janet Matzke
Kristi Nebel
Jacqueline Peterson
Michael Reynolds
Mike Sweney
Kat Willard

Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Community & Economic Development

Staff

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

Date: May 19, 2008

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Phillip Hill, Chair
Margaret Payne, Vice-Chair
Rachel Cardwell
Robin Echte
Sarah Idstrom
Traci Kelly
Bill La Vergne
Janet Matzke
Jacqueline Peterson
Michael Reynolds

Staff Present

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist
Martha Anderson, Assistant Director of the Community and Economic Development Department

Guests Present:

Donald Lacky

City Council Members in Attendance:

Julie Anderson

City Council Members Absent:

Jake Fey

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Jan Brazzell
Janice Karroll
Kristi Nebel
Mike Sweney
Kat Willard

1. Call to Order

5:07 pm

Chair Hill

2. Excusal of Absences

5:08 pm

Vice Chair Payne

Commissioners Brazzell, Karroll, Nebel, Sweney, and Willard were excused.

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

5:09 pm

Vice Chair Payne

Motion: Bill LaVergne

Second: Jackie Peterson

Motion: Carried

4. Chair’s Report: 5:09 pm

Chair Hill brought in an article from the May 8 Tacoma Weekly titled “Area universities unite for art and literature forum” as a reminder of the ways in which the Commission could collaborate more with the local colleges.

5. Staff Check-In 5:10 pm

The Larry Anderson “Clearing the Way” sculpture is currently being repaired and restored. The site will be reconfigured for re-installation of the piece in the next month.

A map of the City council jurisdictions was distributed.

The Arts Commission will share a booth with the City at Tall Ships. The Commission will have a small hands-on project and can have information to hand out to the public. Phil Hill volunteered to staff the booth on July 5 from 10 am – 12:30 pm.

Commissioners were requested to sign-up to cover a variety of programs.

The following Commissioners volunteered to evaluate these Anchor Fund events:

Date	Organization	Event	Volunteer
May 31	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	Jazz @ TMP	Phil Hill
Jun 13	Tacoma Little Theatre	The Pajama Game	Rachel Cardwell

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation has instituted a new program where they commission work by a local artist each year to be used on their materials. This year they selected Chris Sharp.

6. Action Items

A. Ordinance Review and Policy Recommendations 5:18 pm

The Commission discussed proposed changes to the current Commission ordinance. The discussion and changes are as follows:

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
1	Location of Public Art Section	Public Art Section is under 1.28.160 within the Tacoma Arts Commission Section of the Tacoma Municipal Code	Could put Public Art Section as 1.28 B to call out the public art code more clearly. For example:
			1.28 A The Tacoma Arts Commission
			1.28 B The Municipal Art Program

There was a motion:

“I move that we accept the revision as Amy describes”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Jackie Peterson

Motion: Carried

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
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2	Percentage	1 % of Construction Costs	1 % of Construction Costs
		"Construction" shall mean, for purposes of City construction projects that involve the construction of buildings, all finish work, painting, roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating , air-conditioning elevators, fire extinguishing systems, and any other permanent work or permanent equipment excluding the costs of sales tax, demolition, site preparation, property acquisition, financing, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment, design services and environmental assessment and /or remediation. For city construction projects that do not involve the construction of buildings, such as sidewalks, "construction" shall have its usual and customary meaning but shall exclude the cost of sales tax, property acquisition, financing, design services, and environmental assessment and/or remediation.	Construction Costs: The total value of all construction work as well as all finish work, painting, roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, elevators, fire extinguishing systems, site work, and any other permanent work or permanent equipment.

There was a motion:

“I make a motion that we accept the proposal opportunity that you have outlined.”

Motion: Bill La Vergne

Second: Traci Kelly

Motion: Carried

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
3A	Eligible Projects	Construction Project or Public Work Project	Capital Improvement Project

There was a motion:

“I make a motion that we take the Capital Improvement Project like you’ve outlined.”

Motion: Bill La Vergne

Second: Margaret Payne

Motion: Carried

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
3B	Eligible Projects	Accessible, visible, and useable by the public	Visible by the public and/or to which the public has access

There was a motion:

“I move to accept the revision as described by Janet, ‘Accessible, visible or useable by the public’.”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Sarah Idstrom

Motion: Carried

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
3C	Municipal Art Fund		Monies appropriated pursuant to this ordinance shall be transferred by the _____ to the Municipal Art Fund. Funds so appropriated, if not expended in any given Fiscal Year shall be carried over to the next Fiscal Year. Funds appropriated from sources placing time restriction on expenditure of such funds shall be expended according to such restrictions or be forfeited unless an extension is granted.

This issue is for information only at this point. No motion was made.

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
4	Pooling	A policy is hereby established to direct the transfer and pooling of all Municipal Art Program monies within the Municipal Art Fund. Pooling affords the opportunity to look at the needs of the City as a whole and use the art monies only in those projects which may have the greatest impact on communities or offer the best opportunities for artist involvement. Pooling on a departmental basis, or within an enterprise funds basis, affords the opportunity for the Tacoma Art Commission and client departments to work collaboratively on projects which reflect the missions and goals of individual departments and to ensure that art projects are adequately funded. It is not the Council's intent that every City construction project which contributes to the Municipal Art Fund shall include an art project. The decision regarding which City construction projects will include an art project will be determined jointly by the Tacoma Art Commission and the client department according to the protocol described in subsection K below.	Funds appropriated as part of any one project, but not deemed necessary or appropriate in total or in part for said project site may be expended on other projects approved under the Public Art Projects Plan. It is not the Council's intent that every Capital Improvement Project which contributes to the Municipal Art Fund shall include an art project.

It was suggested to add language to clarify how Public Art Projects Plan is defined and will work.

There was a motion:

“I so move that we take the recommendation for the language clarification [with the clarifying language that Amy will add].”

Motion: Bill La Vergne

Second: Robin Echtele

Motion: Carried

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
5	Grant Applications		All City departments shall, from the effective date of this ordinance, include in applications for capital improvement projects to outside granting authorities, amounts equivalent to 1% for artists' services and/or artworks as specified herein unless otherwise waived by the City Council. Receipt of such funds shall be administered as part of the City's Public Art Program.

It was suggested that the wording ‘unless otherwise waived by the City Council’ be taken out of the proposed language.

There was a motion:

“I’ll make a motion that we have it as stated with that deletion of the City Council (‘unless otherwise waived by the City Council’).”

Motion: Jackie Peterson

Second: Rachel Cardwell

Motion: Carried

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
6A	Ineligible	The following project categories shall be considered ineligible for and excluded from the Municipal Art Program calculation base: roadways, airport runways, sewers, and solid waste landfills. This ineligibility shall not preclude a client department, in cooperation with the Tacoma Art Commission, from proposing a public art project for a roadway, airport runway, sewer, or solid waste landfill project which presents an opportunity for the inclusion of public art.	Remove this section

There was a motion:

“I move that we excise this language.”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Jackie Peterson

Motion: Carried

Issue #	Topic	Current Set up	Proposal/Opportunity
6B	Stays the same	Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)	
6C	Stays the same	CIPs paid for in full or in part by the City	

6D	Stays the same	Percentage taken from City's contribution unless public/private partnership is established.	
6E	Stays the same	1% of Construction Costs	
6F	Stays the same	Does not apply to volunteer projects	
6G	Stays the same	Does not apply to routine or deferred maintenance	
6H	Stays the same	Tacoma Public Utilities Department is not required to participate but may do so voluntarily	
6I	Stays the same	All eligible projects funded after March 18, 2000 will participate	
7	Bond Funds	General obligation bond proceeds. In the case of any City construction project which involves the use of General Obligation Bond proceeds, the resolution(s) or ordinance(s) submitted to the voters or the Council shall include an allocation for public art equal to 1 percent of the eligible project cost. Bond proceeds shall be accounted for separately or within the Municipal Art Fund, if necessary, to comply with these requirements.	

Another item which will stay the same is language which stipulates that private projects which are leased back to the City are still required to participate in the program.

These issues stay the same. No motion was made.

B. Powers and Duties

6:06 pm

The Commission reviewed the proposed list of Powers and Duties of the Commission.

It was suggested that language about maintenance be added to the Public Art section. Formerly the language read “Provide stewardship of the Municipal Art Collection including routine maintenance, conservation, emergency maintenance when required, and accurate record keeping.”

It was suggested that “Review and make recommendations for any artworks that are to be removed from the Municipal Art Collection per the deaccessioning policy (resolution #34963)” be moved directly under “Review and make recommendations to the City Council upon all works of art to be acquired by the City, either by purchase, gift or otherwise, and for all exterior works of art installed in the City on public property (resolution #34963).” It was further suggested that the policy number be added to the resolution numbers for these two items.

It was suggested that the Arts Commission work with the local authorities to keep an eye on the City’s bronze sculptures. This is in response to the recent rash of metal theft. The Tacoma Police Department is involved with a multi-jurisdictional special detective unit which works with the scrap yards to monitor possible metal theft. The Arts Commission could submit photos of at risk pieces for the police to pass along to the scrap yards.

It was suggested to combine the language of “Serve as the City’s art ambassadors to artists, arts organizations, and the general populous” with “Acts as a conduit for dialogue regarding the arts and communicate to the public about the City’s arts programs and policies.”

There was a motion:

“I move to accept as revised.”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Bill La Vergne

Motion: Carried

C. Public Art Online Registry

6:18 pm

It was suggested to add a listing in either category one or two, or create a new category for site specific /performance art.

Language about liability will be included on the online registry and will be sent to selected artists.

There was a motion:

“I move to approve the call to artists for the Tacoma Public Art Registry.”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Rachel Cardwell

Motion: Carried

D. Goals

6:26 pm

Commissioners received a worksheet which listed ways in which the Commission and staff are already addressing many of the goals which the Commission brainstormed.

Commissioners discussed ways in which they could be involved with special arts events.

It was noted that several Commissioners are already aligned with various neighborhood councils and so these people could work on communications with the neighborhood councils.

Goals which address similar elements are:

#3 Gain visibility in community. Currently people know there is an Arts Commission. In the future people should understand what the Commission does, how it does it, how they can be heard.

#4 Encourage liaisons with arts organizations’ board members in addition to executive directors. In communications with beneficiary arts organizations about their meetings with Arts Commissioners, specify that at least one board member should participate.

#6 Launch a cultural tourism initiative. Identify agencies and individuals currently responsible for tourism & cultural tourism, and meet with each to discuss opportunities for Arts Commission cooperation.

#7 Assure relationship within the community by developing and implementing communication mechanisms – both formal and informal – with: City Council, Neighborhood Councils, community organizations, sponsored programs (Anchor Fund, Arts Projects, and TAIP).

#8 Meet at least once with each neighborhood council and community organizations to listen to their views and needs regarding art. Pay particular attention to diverse, marginalized, and/or underrepresented neighborhoods.

15 Have more [2] professional artists appointed to City boards, commissions, and task forces. These members would be actively integrated within the City’s structure and can influence public life.

#18 Convene with Tacoma Public Utilities and Public Works/capital projects to formalize relationships, build more fluid communication, and gain their confidence in participating in public art projects. A goal would be to have the Arts Commission listed on significant project checklists.

It was suggested to take these goals and aggregate them into one overall goal. Elements would include: communicate, collaborate, connect, community.

It was suggested that the Commission focus less on self-promotion. Instead the Commission should focus on how to offer something that other organizations will value. Ask them “what can we do for you?” It was also suggested that Commissioners be notified of which items are of priority to disseminate to the public.

It was suggested that the Commission build upon the successes it has already achieved.

7. Art at Work and AMOCAT nominations 5:10 pm

Naomi reported about Art at Work month programming. Studio Tour applications are now available.

Events planned are:

Opening Party – November 30 at the Tacoma Art Museum

Studio Tour – November 8 & 9

Arts Symposium – November 15 & 16 at University of Puget Sound

Art Slam/Spoken Word – November 21 at the Rialto

There are also plans to make a series of 7 letterpress/poetry posters highlighting the work of local artists. Funded artists will also be invited to participate in the Commission events.

Commissioners volunteered to sit on Art at Work planning committees as follows:

Opening Party Committee

- 1 Jackie Peterson
- 2 Bill La Vergne
- 3 Sarah Idstrom
- 4 Janet Matzke
- 5 Phil Hill

Studio Tour Committee

- 1 Jackie Peterson
- 2 Phil Hill

- 3 Jan Brazzell
- 4 Robin Echte

Symposium Committee

- 1 Traci Kelly
- 2 Rachel Cardwell
- 3 Michael Reynolds

Art Slam Committee

- 1 Margaret Payne
- 2 Phil Hill
- 3 Bill La Vergne

Material Distribution

- 1 Margaret Payne
- 2 Jackie Peterson
- 3 Michael Reynolds
- 4 Sarah Idstrom
- 5 Janet Matzke
- 6 Phil Hill
- 7 Rachel Cardwell
- 8 Jan Brazzell

8. Report Back**7:01 pm**

Commissioner Idstrom attended Barefoot Studios TRAIN performance which was a full performance for their small studio space. She also attended the Grand Cinema's 72-hour film festival and noted that the space was packed and the films covered a broad spectrum. She also attended NW Repertory Singers and the Tacoma Youth Chorus performance which the Commission sponsored – the Commission was recognized for their support. Tobey Jones will be having their second annual Senior Art Show in November.

Commissioner La Vergne announced that he is working on setting up a 5 day tour of another art city.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm