

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: August 11, 2008

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Phillip Hill, Chair
Margaret Payne, Vice-Chair
Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
Sarah Idstrom
Janice Karroll
Janet Matzke
Kristi Nebel
Jacqueline Peterson
Kat Willard

Staff Present

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator

Guests Present:

Donald Lacky
Wayne Beals
Terry Munson

City Council Member Present:

Jake Fey

City Council Member Absent:

Julie Anderson

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Robin Echte
Traci Kelly
Bill La Vergne
Michael Reynolds
Mike Sweney

1. Call to Order

5:02 pm

Chair Hill

2. Excusal of Absences

5:03 pm

Vice Chair Payne

3. Approval of Minutes

5:03 pm

Vice Chair Payne

Motion: Jan Brazzell

Second: Kat Willard

Motion: Carried

4. Approval of Agenda

5:03 pm

Vice Chair Payne

Motion: Jan Brazzell

Second: Sarah Idstrom

Motion: Carried

5. Chair's Report:

5:04 pm

Chair Hill

Chair Hill attended Showcase Tacoma and asked for Commissioner feedback. Commissioner Nebel saw an average of about 300 people in attendance but noted that the poets were sequestered inside and saw very few attendees (7-10). Commissioner Willard saw many children in the Kid's Zone.

Chair Hill reported about two articles in the News Tribune by Dan Vopel. One article was about Public Art and the Port and the other article was about painting the tanks on the Foss.

Commissioner Willard announced her resignation from the Commission due to health reasons.

6. Staff Check-In

5:11 pm

The Goals Committee (Commissioners Brazzell, Nebel, and Reynolds) met to discuss the Arts Commission proposed goals. They could not agree on a list of firm goals and suggested that the Commission not set any further goals for this year. The Goals Committee felt they needed more guidance from staff and needed more experienced commissioners on the Committee to provide insight.

They suggested the Executive Committee focus on some of the major goals already discussed including a funding circle, connecting with Anchor Fund organizations, and meeting with Council Members. They also suggested looking back at the Strategic Plan from 2005 which covers three broad goals, which can still function as guiding principles.

Commissioner Karroll reported on the Sister Cities artwork review panel. Other panel members included Commissioner Echtle and M.E. Donovan. If the artwork catalog needs to be extended in the future, it was suggested to send out a second call to artists instead of inviting specific artists to have their work included outside of a jury process.

7. Arts Commission 101: Funding

5:20 pm

The Arts Commission has authority over the distribution of money that goes towards the three funding programs: Tacoma Artists Initiative Program, Arts Projects, and Anchor Fund. This money comes from the general fund that is distributed to various programs by the City including the Community and Economic Development Department. The Art Program is housed within the Community and Economic Development Department. The department gives the Arts Commission an allocation to use for funding and it is up to the Commission to decide how to disperse the money. Once the Commission has decided who to fund, staff is responsible for overseeing contracts and payments.

The Commission also oversees money for the Percent for Art program. The Commission, where applicable, can give input into how the money would be best spent. Staff oversees contracts and payments of the art component of projects.

The Commission has also received a one-time allocation of \$250,000 with an additional \$100,000 a biennium for arts maintenance. The Commission oversees this money as well.

City Council has to approve any funding over \$50,000.

The Commission is able to provide suggestions regarding budget allocations to the City Council via conversations with the City Manager and City Council members. It was suggested to set up coffee meetings with Council members.

Council Member Fey mentioned that money has been allocated in the past for arts maintenance as well as additional money for artwork at the Hotel Murano. It was suggested to speak with the City Manager and then City Council members about the Commission's funding desires, especially new Council Members. The City Manager gives a budget proposal to City Council. It is a 2-year budget process; money is tight this year.

There is a push to improve the streetscape in downtown Tacoma in order to promote economic development. This may be an avenue in which to bring more art into the City.

8. Action Items

A. Water Forest

5:40 pm

Pinwheel's estimate for the Water Forest could be scaled back to about \$50,000 by using City services to complete certain aspects of the project. The money for the final repairs to the Water Forest is in the arts maintenance budget. An outside engineer will still need to give an okay before proceeding with the repairs. Council approval would need to be received before entering into a contract for repairs.

Howard Ben Tre studio has not responded to a request for approval of the proposed repairs. If approval is not received from Ben Tre, the commission can still proceed with repairs by taking his name off the piece.

B. Ordinance

5:47 pm

Amy and Chair Hill took the revised ordinance to the Government Performance & Finance Committee. The Committee made several suggestions for changes and once those were made, gave it a due pass to take it to Council.

Changes include:

- A revised numbering system
- **1.28.A 050.A** Council is not comfortable with reducing Commission terms to two years; they recommend three-year terms.
- **1.28.A 050.C** suggested changing language to "Each member shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified."
- **1.28.A 050** temporary vacancies language is not needed because Commission already has power to excuse absences.
- **1.28.A 050.G** residency language will include "Commissioners who move out of the City of Tacoma limits may carry out the duration of their term but may not be re-appointed while they are not Tacoma residents."
- **1.28.A 070.A** Powers and Duties language suggested changing to "Act in an advisory capacity to the city council in all matters pertaining to the arts and culture of the city."

- **1.28.A 070.C** “City departments” were added to “Work cooperatively with City boards and commissions, city departments, and other public and private organizations in creating and promoting art and cultural programs and activities within the City;”
- **1.28.A 070.I** the word “populous” was changed to “public” in “Serve as the City’s art ambassadors to artists, arts organizations, and the general public and communicate about the City’s arts program and policies”
- **1.28.A 070** “providing inclusive, thoughtful selection processes for public art with strong community stakeholder involvement” cannot be legally enforced but it was suggested to reinforce the concept in other places or put it in an accompanying policy.
- **1.28.A 080** Contracts for Artistic Services section identifies that the Commission is authorized to approve funding and other issues related to funding.
- **1.28.A 110.B** language changed to “A simple majority of appointed filled positions shall constitute a quorum.”
- **1.28.A 110.C** language changed to “A majority vote of the quorum is required to pass any motion.”
- **1.28.A 120** Staff duties wording as outlined were added.
- **1.28.B 020.2** Public art section does not include streets as eligible for the percent for art program. Language states “Eligible Capital Improvement Project means any project paid for wholly or in part by the City of Tacoma that is visible or accessible by the public for the construction, rehabilitation or remodeling of a structure, park, public utility within General Government, sidewalk, parking facility or any portion thereof within the City of Tacoma limits.”
- **1.28.B 020.4** Language was included about an “in lieu fee” for those who do not want public art as part of their program. Language states ““In Lieu Fee” is a payment made to the Municipal Art Fund instead of including artwork in the project. In lieu fees shall be equal to the value of the 1% of construction costs. Projects may include artwork in a project less than the value of 1% for art and pay an in lieu fee equal to the balance.”

The Committee gave support for new wording:

- **1.28.A 070.R** “Review and make recommendations for all artworks under consideration for placement on City of Tacoma property and upon request for placement upon city Rights of Way.”
- **1.28.A 070.S** “Review and make recommendations for artwork included as part of Building and Land Use permits or development agreements when required or requested.”

There was a motion:

“I move that we accept as written”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Janice Karroll

Motion: Carried

C. Anchor Fund Reports and Coffees 6:24 pm

Tacoma Little Theatre is currently in trouble. The artistic director was released from his duties and an interim director, Doug Kerr, is in place. Their business manager left at the beginning of 2008 and they have been operating without a staff member dedicated to fiscal responsibility. There are also charges of staff members not being paid in full for their services. They do currently have a development and marketing person working for them.

Chair Hill, Commissioner Cardwell and Amy McBride volunteered to meet with the board and staff of Tacoma Little Theatre.

D. Final AMOCAT Nominations and Selection 6:36 pm

Commissioners voted on the AMOCAT nominations.

The first round of votes was as follows:

Community Outreach by an Individual Artist	
Linda Danforth	10
Community Outreach by an Organization	
D.A.S.H. Center for the Arts	2
Proctor Arts Fest	1
King's Books	4
UPS Community Music School	3
Arts Patron	
Exit 133	0
Hotel Murano	4
Broadway Center for the Performing Arts board	4
Bank of America (downtown branch) for support of TAM	2

The second round of votes for top two were as follows:

Community Outreach by an Individual Artist	
Linda Danforth	10
Community Outreach by an Organization	
King's Books	6
UPS Community Music School	4
Arts Patron	
Hotel Murano	7
Broadway Center for the Performing Arts board	3

The 2008 AMOCAT art awards were awarded as follows:

Community Outreach by an Individual Artist: Linda Danforth

Community Outreach by an Organization: King's Books

Arts Patron: Hotel Murano

E. Art at Work

6:58 pm

A panel met to review poetry submissions for the Art at Work broadsides and selected 7 poems. The poems were paired with 7 letterpress artists. The broadsides will be used for the 2008 Art at Work posters.

Sponsorships have been received from the Hotel Murano, City Arts magazine, Showcase magazine, and the Weekly Volcano.

Calls for the Art Slam will be coming up soon. Commissioners were asked to spread the word about it.

There are 61 artists and 2 schools on the 2008 Studio Tours.

On a side note: The deadline for the Artist Registry was extended two weeks. The Commission will need to do more targeted calls to artists to get more applications in. It was suggested to get artist mailing lists from Jennifer Olson-Rudenko, TAM, and Franke Tobey Jones.

F. De-Accessioning Artwork

7:04 pm

The Tone School ceramic mural had to be removed from its site. It may need to be deaccessioned or may go back to the public schools. A piece by Harold Balaze, which is located at the Murano, will also need to be removed because of disrepair. She Who Watches by Doug Granum needs to be removed for the current LID work and will need to be resited. The Commission will be asked to provide input on the new location for the piece.

Janice Karroll offered to sit on a deaccessioning panel.

9. Report Back

7:07 pm

Commissioner Idstrom handed out information about the Senior Art show at Franke Tobey Jones.

Commissioner Nebel announced that the last Playground Express concert for 2008, funded by the Tacoma Arts Commission, would be on August 12 at Franklin Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm