

## Minutes TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION March 20, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) meeting recorded at 6:00pm on March 20, 2023, held at the Tempe Public Library and via Teams.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Jacqueline Bernatt– Vice-chair  
Maureen Kobierowski – Chair  
Haylee Mills  
Lisa Roach  
Randall Schmidt  
Jennifer Song  
Justin Stewart

**City Staff Present:**

Brendan Ross, Deputy Director – Arts & Culture Division  
Joy Higgins, Management Assistant – Arts & Culture Division  
Kara Osburn, Financial Analyst – Arts & Culture Division  
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Manager – Tempe Public Art  
Eileen May, General Manager – Tempe Center for the Arts  
Brenda Abney, Manager – Tempe History Museum  
Maja Aurora, Manager – Tempe Community Arts  
Craig Hayton, Director – Community Services Department

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

William Carr  
Harper Lines  
Ginny Sylvester

**Guest(s) Present:**

None

**Call to Order**

- **Maureen Kobierowski**, TACC Chair, called the TACC meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

- None

**Agenda Item 2 - Approval of the February 13, 2023 Commission Minutes**

**M. Kobierowski** asked the commissioners to review an unapproved TACC minutes document dated February 13, 2023.

**MOTION:** Jacqueline moved to approve the February 13, 2023 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes.

**SECOND:** Jennifer Song seconded

**AYES:** Jacqueline Bernatt, Maureen Kobierowski, Haylee Mills, Lisa Roach, Jennifer Song, Justin Stewart, Randall Schmidt

**ABSTAIN:** None

**NAYS:** None

**RESULT:** Motion passed with a 7-0 vote

**ABSENT:** William Carr, Harper Lines, Ginny Sylvester

**Agenda Item 3 - Approval of the 2023 Arts & Culture Awards Selections**

**Joy Higgins**, Management Assistant for Arts & Culture, asked commissioners to approve the selected nominees for 2023 Arts & Culture Awards.

- **Dr Michael Willson – Artistic Trailblazer**
- **Dan Thompson – Cultural Connector**
- **Ed Wong – Community Impactor**
- **Kara Roschi – Creative Entrepreneur**

- **Peggy Moroney – Tempe Champion**

**MOTION:** Jacqueline Bernatt moved to approve the selected nominees for 2023 Arts & Culture Awards.

**SECOND:** Randall Schmidt seconded

**AYES:** Jacqueline Bernatt, Maureen Kobierowski, Haylee Mills, Lisa Roach, Jennifer Song, Justin Stewart, Randall Schmidt

**ABSTAIN:** None

**NAYS:** None

**RESULT:** Motion passed with a 7-0 vote

**ABSENT:** William Carr, Harper Lines, Ginny Sylvester

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Update: Tempe Public Art**

- **Rebecca Blume Rothman**, Tempe Public Art Manager, and **Brendan Ross**, Deputy Director of Arts & Culture, provided information about an opportunity for public art at the Mill Avenue Underpass.
  - B. Ross and Craig Hayton presented information about the opportunity to Mayor and Council at a regular City Council Meeting on March 9, 2023.
  - The opportunity involves landscaping and wall space for public art activation.
  - The Mill Avenue underpass is a southern gateway to downtown Tempe and a historic district that includes Gammage Auditorium.
  - Aspects of the underpass required for consideration are ownership, engineering, and maintenance, among others.
  - Forms of art can include, but are not limited to, mural, lighting, or three-dimensional treatments.
  - The goal of the opportunity is to bring vibrancy to the space.
  - The desired installation date would around summer/fall of 2024.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Update: Arizona Theatre Company**

- **B. Ross** provided an update on the partnership between TCA and Arizona Theater Company.
  - ATC has announced their first season at TCA.
  - Subscriptions and single tickets are currently being sold.
  - The City is in conversation with ATC in exploring what further potential there may be for partnership opportunities, which would require council approval to put forth.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Presentation: Increasing Support for Small and Medium Arts Sectors**

- **Maja Aurora**, Tempe Community Arts Manager, outlined updates to the Arts Grants processes.
  - The application process for Wavemaker and Vibrant City Arts Grants opens on March 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Maja is currently scheduling meetings with grant applicants to discuss their materials ahead of the application deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
    - Grant selection panels will take place the last week of June, TACC members can expect to be contacted by Maja for participation.
  - The Arts in Schools grants allow teachers to choose the type of arts they would like to bring into their schools. Tempe is doubling the investment of previous years for these grants.
    - Tempe Community Arts will develop a roster of artists and organizations as a resource for teachers.
    - Please refer interested artists you may know to Maja.
    - These grants focus on the schools that reside in Tempe within the three school districts.
- **Eileen May**, General Manager of TCA, discussed the TCA Resident Artist Program
  - TCA currently serves seven resident companies of a variety of arts offerings through capacity building that includes marketing, production support, financial support, etc. This will continue for the next 12 months.
  - TCA has a goal to update the Resident Artist Program starting in the 2024-25 program season.
    - Consultation with current companies will help define needs that need to be addressed and bring to light changes that would help strengthen the program.

- The format of the new program will be developed in partnership with current resident artist companies.
- A three-year commitment will ensure time for solid relationship and capacity building that will focus on relationships rather than one-off events. Programs would be tailored to each company and their goals.
- The TCA hopes to have the program ready to announce in early summer and accept applications through October 1<sup>st</sup>. A selection panel will include a TACC liaison.
- B. Ross presented ideas about developing an artist incubator program for small to medium arts sector.
  - Tempe Arts & Culture will be requesting up to \$100K in supplemental funding in the next budget year with the purpose of developing a program to help small to medium arts organizations to level up.
  - The incubator program could involve providing mentoring, business advice, marketing expertise, and good governance practices.
  - Arts & Culture would like to have a physical location to house the program. There are a few in consideration.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Presentation & Discussion: Arts & Culture Signature Event**

- B. Ross led a discussion about developing a signature arts event in the city of Tempe:
  - This effort is based on recommendations from AMS and the 2015 Arts & Culture Plan, and respond to the City Council Strategic Priority of “Quality of Life.”
  - The festival would be developed as a collaborative and themed festival that incorporates TCA, ASU, music venues in the community, community-initiated vents, and other activities.
  - The festival will also support the production of community festivals celebrating cultural diversity.
  - A tributary model is being explored, in which city-wide, hyper local events in the community flow towards a large event in Downtown Tempe/Tempe Town Lake. A fringe concept that culminates in a large festival.
  - A goal is for an evolving festival that can absorb current and emerging public dialogue and act to create social change.
  - The inaugural, pilot event is expected for April 2024 that builds upon events that are already planned.
  - The staff recommended initial budget to cover personnel, marketing and programs is up to \$590,000. Collaborating entities will contribute in accordance with their involvement.
  - TACC liaisons will be called upon for committees and panels associated with the festival.
  - TACC members contributed feedback and thoughts for consideration when planning the festival.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Presentation: Arts & Culture Budgets for 2023-24**

- Kara Osburn, Arts & Culture Financial Analyst, presented an in-depth view of budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.
  - The FY23-24 Municipal Arts funding requests is \$1,275,000.
    - Major current projects include the Mill Avenue underpass, parks play areas, and temporary works.
  - The FY23-24 Arts & Culture CIP funding request is \$3,354,000.
    - Major current projects include TCA venue equipment refresh, TCA reflecting pod investment, Edna Arts ceramics patio and kiln improvements, and Museum loading dock security updates.
  - The FY23-24 Arts & Culture operating budget is requesting an additional \$100,000 for the establishment of the small-to-medium arts sector support discussed in agenda item six. Other amounts will remain the same as FY23.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Official TACC Representation**

- a. Previous events
  - Maureen – Attended Hayden’s Ferry Days
  - Lisa, Jacqueline, Jennifer, and Harper tended the TACC booth at Hayden’s Ferry Days and solicited responses to the current Arts & Culture survey.
  - Randall – Attended the Yuma Symposium

**b. Upcoming Events**

- Neighborhood Awards – April 1
- El Puente Festival – April 2
- From Gospel to Jazz: Impact of African American Culture – April 8
- Lunch Talk: Japanese American Flower Gardens – April 12
- 48 Live: Con Tumbao – April 15
- Music Under the Stars – April 28
- **Justin Stewart** will be included in the Tempe Today podcast, and will DJ at the Tempe Festival of the Arts.

**Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items**

- Activations
- Flour Mill and art activations
- Indigenous representatives for principles of design
- Goal Activations
- Signature Event
- Downtown Tempe Refresh/DTA invite
- Tour de Fat
- Partnering with local businesses for events

**Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm**

Prepared by: Joy Higgins