

# Minutes

## TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

### February 5, 2024

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) meeting recorded at 6:00pm on February 5, 2024, held at the Tempe Public Library and via Teams.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Jacqueline Swan – Vice-chair  
Andrea Hanley  
Maureen Kobierowski – Chair  
Haylee Mills  
Lisa Roach  
Jennifer Song  
Ginny Sylvester

**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

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Justin Stewart

**Guest(s) Present:**

Maile Cacal, student

**Call to Order**

- **Maureen Kobierowski**, TACC Chair, called the TACC meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

- None

**Agenda Item 2 - Approval of the November 13, 2023 Arts & Culture Commission Minutes**

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

**MOTION:** Ginny Sylvester moved to approve the November 13, 2023 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes.

**SECOND:** Jennifer Song seconded

**AYES:** Andrea Hanley, Maureen Kobierowski, Haylee Mills, Lisa Roach, Jennifer Song, Jacqueline Swan, Ginny Sylvester

**ABSTAIN:** None

**NAYS:** None

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

**ABSENT:** Justin Stewart

**Agenda Item 3 - Approval of the January 8, 2024 Arts & Culture Commission Minutes**

M. Kobierowski asked the commissioners to review an unapproved TACC minutes document dated January 8, 2024.

**MOTION:** Jennifer Song moved to approve the January 8, 2024 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes.

**SECOND:** Ginny Sylvester seconded

**AYES:** Andrea Hanley, Maureen Kobierowski, Haylee Mills, Lisa Roach, Jennifer Song, Jacqueline Swan, Ginny Sylvester  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**NAYS:** None  
**RESULT:** Motion passed with a 7-0 vote  
**ABSENT:** Justin Stewart

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Arts & Economic Prosperity Study**

- **B. Ross** gave an overview of the AEP6 Study and results.
  - Information about the nationally coordinated Arts & Economic Prosperity program, arranged and produced by Americans for the Arts, can be found here: [Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 | Americans for the Arts](#)
  - The study focuses on the value of economic and social impacts of the arts through nonprofit arts and culture organizations and audiences.
  - Attachment A is a summary of the Tempe Arts & Culture results of the EAP6 study.
- Commissioner feedback:
  - Include how much the City of Tempe has invested in artists across the division programs. Format as a lookback with infographics and data.
  - Create a comparison of last year and a goal for future.
  - Include DTA and Tempe Tourism in the study.
  - Include time spent mentoring artists as a valuable metric.
  - Is there a metric that describes the correlation of the occurrence of art in relation to where artists live?
  - Do affordable living communities for artists affect the economic data?
  - Impact statements, in conjunction with the revenue, stating that staff time mentoring artists through programs is a highly valuable resource.
  - Can we use what we've learned from the AEP program to evaluate programs and efforts provided during "Arts Month."

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Arts & Culture Staffing**

- **B. Ross** updated the commission about staffing changes happening in the Arts & Culture Division:
  - Welcome to Garilyn Bourgeois, Arts & Culture Marketing Supervisor. She leads a new Arts & Culture Marketing team for integrated marketing and communications for the division.
  - Eileen May has accepted a position with the City of Fort Collins, Colorado. Her last day as TCA Manager – Programs & Presented Services will be March 8, 2024.
  - TCA Manager – Business & Operations is currently in recruitment.
  - TCA Manager – Programs will be posted for recruitment soon.
  - Brendan will step into the management roles for TCA until the two manager positions are filled and trained.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – TCA Resident Company Update**

- **B. Ross** brief update:
  - A call for expressions of interest to apply for the Resident Company program at TCA has been completed. Applications have been reviewed and an announcement will be broadcast soon.
  - TCA will continue to grow the diversity of selected resident companies, and renew the commitment to resourcing and supporting the resident companies in an intentional, long-term way.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Arts & Culture Financial Update**

- **Postponed to next meeting**

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Signature Festival**

- **B. Ross** provided an update about the signature festival, planned for 2025:

- Considering the rapid change of Arts & Culture Division staffing over the last two months, and further development in the months to come, the launch of the signature festival as a fully invested event will be moved to 2026 to allow for more thoughtful deliberate planning.
- Commissioner comments:
  - Build a two-year plan that leads to the launch of the large event in 2026.
  - Use the opportunities in front of other commissions to talk up other efforts by the Arts & Culture Division (Human Relations March, P+R March 20, Historic Preservation Commission March 13, Neighborhood Commission March 6)

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Danelle Plaza**

- **B. Ross** provided an update on the development effort of the central portion of Danelle Plaza.
  - The City is moving through the process with a number of different land holders to approach the planning for the site.
  - A meeting was held with artists, staff, and Rosa Inchausti to discuss the role and value of Danelle Plaza for the local artist community.
- Commissioner comment:
  - Danelle Plaza was included in the industrial area effort. What is the current status of those efforts?
  - Danelle Plaza holds a place in the history of many Tempeans.
  - Create a list of all the venues and firsts that involve the plaza.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Arts & Culture Awards**

- **J. Higgins** updated the commission on the current status of nominations for the Arts & Culture Awards, and encouraged the commission to nominate and forward nomination information to friends and family.

#### **Agenda Item 11 – Retreat Planning**

- M. Kobierowski outlined agenda item ideas for the TACC retreat:
  - Review goals and activations
  - Make art with and artist-led activity
  - Invite a restaurant that collaborates with TCA to cater the dinner
  - Discuss how the commission can impact Tempe Arts & Culture through activations and goals

#### **Agenda Item 12 – TACC Updates**

- Recent Activations
  - Andrea attended Gallery opening
  - Jacqueline spoke at city council meeting in support of Danelle Plaza
  - Haylee attended TCA events and attended the city council meeting in support of Danelle Plaza
  - Maureen spoke at the Tempe Leadership A+C Day
  - Ginny attended events at Petersen House
  - Jennifer attended Queens Cartoonist and Scrooge, Public Art Panel
- Upcoming Events
  - Feb 8 The Art of Storytelling – TCA Gallery
  - Feb 10 Small Island Big Song – TCA
  - Feb 10 Black History Month Kids Activity Day – Museum
  - Feb 11 Second Sundays on Mill – Community Arts
  - Feb 23 Prime Society (neo soul rap turned band) – Museum
  - Feb 24 Open House – Elias Rodriguez House

#### **Agenda Item 13 – Future Agenda Items**

- None

**Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm**  
Prepared by: Joy Higgins