

Minutes TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION January 20, 2022

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) meeting recorded at 5:00pm on January 20, 2022, held virtually via Teams.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jacqueline Bernatt
William Carr
Jeff Davis – Chair
Maureen Kobierowski – Vice-chair
Harper Lines
Haylee Mills
Peggy Moroney
Robert Nichols
Randall Schmidt
Justin Stewart
Ginny Sylvester

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Jennifer Song

City Staff Present:

Brendan Ross, Deputy Director – Arts & Culture Division
Joy Higgins, Management Assistant – Arts & Culture Division
Kara Osburn, Financial Analyst – Arts & Culture Division
Brenda Abney, Museum Manager – Tempe History Museum
Eileen May, Managing Director – Tempe Center for the Arts
Maja Aurora, Arts Administrator – Tempe Community Arts
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Arts Administrator – Tempe Public Art
Jill Buschbacher, Program Manager – Economic Development
Ambika Adhikari, Principal Planner – Community Development

Guest(s) Present:

John Kane, Founding Partner – Architekton
Tom Reilly, Principal Architect – Architekton
Bryan Esparza, Junior Designer – Architekton

Call to Order

- **Jeff Davis**, TACC Chair, called the TACC meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

- None

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of the December 13, 2021 Commission Minutes

J. Stewart asked the commissioners to review an unapproved TACC minutes document dated December 13, 2021.

MOTION: Ginny Sylvester moved to approve the December 13, 2021 Tempe Arts and Culture Commission Meeting Minutes with edits.

SECOND: Randall Schmidt seconded

AYES: Jacqueline Bernatt, Jeff Davis, Maureen Kobierowski, Haylee Mills, Robert Nichols, Randall Schmidt, Justin Stewart, Ginny Sylvester

ABSTAIN: William Carr

NAYS: None

RESULT: Motion passed with an 8-0 vote

ABSENT: Jennifer Song, Harper Lines

Agenda Item 3 – Presentation and Discussion: Smith Innovation Hub

- **John Kane**, Founding Partner of Architekton, presented information about the Smith Innovation Hub and Tempe Maker District design guidelines.
 - Innovation hubs are geographic areas within Tempe that are part of an economic development initiative to enhance key employment corridors by transforming them into innovative mixed-use

ecosystems while maintaining the existing character. Partnership efforts between the businesses and the city are intended to promote new investment, job creation, and placemaking. Art integration goals are built into the design guidelines with an emphasis on supporting grassroots efforts and authenticity.

- [Smith Innovation Hub](#) is an area of light industrial/office use located south of Tempe Marketplace bordered by Rio Salado Parkway, Price Road, University Drive, and McClintock Drive. [Tempe.gov/smithhub](#)
- [Tempe Maker District](#) is almost a full square mile of commercial, industrial, manufacturing, and distribution businesses, bordered on three sides by single-family residential communities. Borders for this area are Broadway Road, Mill Avenue, Southern Avenue, and Priest Drive. [Tempe.gov/makerdistrict](#)
- Detailed slideshows and information can be found via the web links included above.

Questions/comments

- Do these areas have a lot of vacancy? Do they need rethinking?
 - There is low vacancy in these two areas. They are serving as pilots for the innovation district program.
 - Older buildings' structural features are less desirable for industrial use, there is opportunity to encourage other use for these buildings.
- Is the city incentivizing the types of development desired for these areas?
 - Economic Development has been in discussion with Arts & Culture to work with creatives in the community and use existing funding and other mechanisms to entice studio space and create partnerships with private development. A goal is to determine how the city can be supportive.
 - Working through whether some investment can be allocated to incentivize properly. An idea is to build grant making programs to offer artists incentive to coordinate pilot or seed events to show how we can creatively occupy spaces in these industrial areas.
- Tempe needs spaces for music performance and art exhibitions to support the local creative community.
- Tempe has lost a lot of its character over time. The Tempe community voted to support creativity with the Arts & Culture Tax, they want Tempe to be more involved in art in all of its phases. Downtown Tempe no longer meets those needs.
- The LA Fashion District is a great example of how a "hub" can support specific industries.

Agenda Item 4 – Update: Arts & Culture Division

- **Brendan Ross**, Deputy Director for Arts & Culture, provided brief updates on the following:
- **TCA**
 - Covid continues to be an issue to work with. Arts & Culture strives to offer programs and events to the community while taking care to recognize the safety protocols necessary.
 - Roof repairs are under way.
 - Pond structural repairs are under way.
- **Edna Arts**
 - Edna Arts theater space is being decommissioned for performing arts and retrofit to be used for ongoing programming in Tempe Community Arts.
- **Tempe History Museum**
 - Museum is undergoing staff restroom renovations for ADA compliance.
 - Brenda Abney has been awarded an MLK Diversity Award for the diverse programs offered at Tempe History Museum.
- **Tempe Public Art**
 - Monitoring and repair of public art projects is part of the work of the Public Art team. Damage, wear and tear, and vandalism are some reasons for these services.
- **A+C Budgets**
 - This is the time of year to submit requests for the next FY. A+C has submitted requests to meet Arts & Culture plan and AMS study objectives and requests by the artist community.
 - Arts & Culture seeking approval of \$1.8m of recurring funding in the Arts & Culture Fund to support programs and staff to meet community needs for Arts & Culture services.

- Marketing to focus on reaching new communities and to boost audience and revenue potential
- Funding to bring back frozen positions to fill out the needs of Tempe Center for the Arts
- TCA staffing to drive forward programming and strategic growth in revenue
- An increase in Community Arts funding to bring Arts Grants up to \$300,000 as stated in the Arts & Culture Plan and in support of local artists and creatives
- Museum programming investments
- Investment in historic homes and their upkeep
- Arts & Culture seeking approval of \$500,000 of recurring funding to Municipal Arts Fund to support a signature event or several events that make up a major experience, including staffing.
- Arts & Culture seeking to provide funding to artists or businesses within the innovation hubs to encourage the creative ecosystem and support local artists.

Agenda Item 5 – Program Reports

- **Arts & Culture Finances**
- **Tempe Public Art** – Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempe.gov/publicart.
- **Tempe Community Arts** – Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempe.gov/arts and www.tempe.gov/ednaarts.
- **Tempe Center for the Arts** – Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempecenterforthearts.com.
- **Tempe History Museum** – Current events can be found in the written report and at www.tempe.gov/museumevents.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion: Retreat Agenda Planning

What would the commission like to accomplish at the retreat?

- Signature Event and how the commission can participate in that
- How can commissioners market activities to Tempe and become more aware of arts & culture in Tempe
- Creative ways to engage the community and artists in programs
- Brainstorming and creating action items
- Innovation Hubs

Agenda Item 8 – Commission Member Announcements

- Ginny Sylvester:
 - Worked at Petersen House for holidays
 - Served on Public Art panel for the Beam
- Haylee Mills:
 - Utility Box artists will be painting next month
- Jacqueline Bernatt:
 - Visited the new public art at Daley Park
 - Will be attending CONDER/Dance performance
- Justin Stewart:
 - Emailed people about 2022 Arts & Culture Awards nomination form
 - Emailed people about Call for Artists for the 2022 Tempe Pre-qualified Artist List
 - Trying to finalize a booking for History Museum performance night on April 8th.
- William Carr
 - Looking for ways to lend a hand in Arts & Culture in Tempe
- Robert Nichols
 - Working with musicians to get bookings around the city

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

- None

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm

Prepared by: Joy Higgins

