

TRACY ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
**November 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, 715 Central Avenue

Chair Reis called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll call found Commissioners Dhugga, Jones, Lees, Reis and Sandhu present.

Staff Present: William Wilson, Cultural Arts Supervisor  
Anna Cross, Cultural Arts Division Manager

Recorded By: William Wilson, Cultural Arts Supervisor

1. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

2. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER DEBBIE JONES

Staff and Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Jones spoke about her professional and volunteer background, and interests in supporting the arts in Tracy.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

**ACTION** Motion by Commissioner Lees, seconded by Vice Chair Dhugga to approve the minutes as amended. Voice vote found Commissioners Dhugga, Lees, Reis and Sandhu in favor, Commissioner Jones abstained; motion carried 4:0

4. RECEIVE 2023 GRANTING PROGRAM UPDATE

CAS Wilson provided a copy of the grantee's first and second, submitted project updates to the Tracy Arts Commission (TAC) as an informational report. He advised the third project updates are due from the grantees in January, and to the TAC in February.

5. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF FY2023-24 FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

CAM Wilson provided the Staff Report and advised Commissioners to refer to the September meeting minutes for helpful reference in the continued discussion.

In consideration of Arts Month in April 2024, Commissioner Jones suggested the TAC present open studios at the Grand, with local visual artists and performers sharing with the public. Commissioner Lees questioned if the Center or if the spaces within are available to accommodate such a large event. CAS Wilson and CAM Cross provided an overview of events that are already on the calendar in April, with Saturday, April 27 as likely the only option for such an event, and in a limited capacity with on-going classes.

Commissioners then discussed the value of presenting and/or supporting a live visual and performing arts event instead of offering workshops. Vice Chair Dhugga suggested having Open Mic Night (OMN) in the EK Theatre, with support for funding an event rather than producing one. Commissioner Lees agreed, adding the focus should be to connect the Grand to the community. CAM Cross and Commissioner Jones asked if educational components should be offered. Commissioner Lees advised the TAC should avoid logistics and be ambassadors instead, striving for more public engagement. Chair Reis added that the TAC needs to improve marketing efforts. Commissioner Lees stressed the need for Commissioners to support all TAC programming, by attending events and networking with the community.

Commissioners agreed that utilizing the April 18 Open Mic Night for a larger event in the EK Theatre was plausible, but that technical challenges exist including performer communications, stage management and the audience attendance in a larger venue. CAS Wilson offered that the inclusion of a house band in either the Studio Theatre or EK Theatre might help bring continuity to a more diverse OMN event.

Chair Reis suggested a community mural (on a wall, canvas or panel), or a live painting to music event could be offered by local artist José Luis Piña Morales. Chair Reis agreed to confirm his interest, and offer invitation to the December meeting.

In consideration of the 2024 Granting Program, Commissioners agreed that offering fewer grants, such as two or three at \$2,000, would be more impactful than three or four \$1,000 grants.

6. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN TRACY ARTWALK PROGRAMMING

CAM Wilson provided the Staff Report. Commissioners and Staff discussed the positive outcomes of the Artwalk held on September 16 in conjunction with Tracy City Center Association's (TCCA) Wine Stroll. Commissioner Sandhu asked if the Artwalks are advertised in the Tracy Press. CAS Wilson responded that the event series is advertised in the newspaper in addition to online placements including website, emails, social media and community calendars, as well as printed in a variety of publications and promotions. CAS Wilson advised the 2024 event series format and scheduling are pending with an on-going participant survey, CAD Staff evaluation, and potential changes in TCCA programming.

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioners gave brief summaries of their activities relating to arts and culture within the last month.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

CADM Cross announced the holiday programming at the Grand through December.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:57 p.m.

**ACTION**

Motion by Commissioner Lees, seconded by Commissioner Sandhu to adjourn. Roll call vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

The above agenda was posted at the Tracy City Hall on November 9, 2023. The above are action minutes. Materials distributed to the majority of the Tracy Arts Commission, staff records and/or audio recording is available in the Cultural Arts Division located at 715 Central Avenue.