

Public Art and Community Design Committee

Of the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 3:30 pm

To join the Virtual Zoom Meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone use the following methods:

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81738607613>

Webinar ID: 817 3860 7613 Phone: +1 564 217 2000 US

Agenda Item	Type	Presenter	Time
1. Roll Call to Establish Quorum Chair Ackerman started the meeting at 3:34 PM and asked Ms. Shaw to do a roll call to establish quorum. Members Present: Adriane Ackerman, Anne Lopez, Emily Tate, Liane Hernandez, Lizzy Golden, Valerie Sipp, Logan Greene, Audrey Waner, Dusty Reyes, Maureen Lueck, Jacqueline Jean Barrios, Wesley Fawcett Creigh Members Absent: Adia Jamille, Jim Glock, Alisha Vasquez, Brandon Varela, Janet Fischer, Nancy Fung		Sadie	5
2. Introduction of Guests & Attendees Chair Ackerman introduced the item and asked guests to introduce themselves. Chair Ackerman asked Ms. Wiehe to introduce herself. Ms. Wiehe stated that she is the Cultural Affairs Officer for the City of Tucson.	Announcement	Adriane	5
3. Call to the Audience Members of the public must sign-up to speak at the Call to the Audience: https://airtable.com/appEkdoNa9uaLutTZ/shr1SX8hMC5u3iS5p Chair Ackerman introduced the item and gave the floor to Felix Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence stated that he is the only member of the public who attends the meeting each month and that he is pleased that the PACDC formed a subcommittee to look into the public art plan. He stated that at the last PACDC meeting a PACDC member asked about the artist roster and why it was open to artists throughout arizona	Information	Adriane	15

instead of restricted to the service region as PACDC has voted on in the past but the Arts foundation expanded the criteria because they don't respect the authority of the committee. He also commented on the Arts Foundation Board of Directors and how they are not subject to public meeting law and he wasn't sure when or where they meet.

No other comments were made.

4. Committee Member Activity Report

Announcement

Adriane

5

Chair Ackerman introduced the item and asked PACDC Members if they had anything to report.

Mr. Greene reminded everyone that on August 28th, 29th, and 30th is Camp Groundworks event and fundraiser, and they are still looking for sponsors and that closer to the event they will announce the artists and bands that will be playing.

Ms. Lueck commented that from July 29th to August 2nd there will be the National Colored Pencil Society of America's convention and exhibit in Prescott if anyone wanted to attend.

No other comments were made.

5. Update on Education Subcommittee

Study

Adriane

15

Chair Ackerman introduced the item and led a discussion on the work happening at the Education Subcommittee meetings and their discussions regarding the public art plan and some goals they would like to consider. She said that she sent the meeting notes to the group via Ms. Shaw and that she would go over each topic briefly.

Chair Ackerman said that the subcommittee first discussed the City of Tucson's administrative directives surrounding public art, the PACDC Members roles and responsibilities, the public art plan, and the education program. She noted that they concluded that in order to fulfill our mandate for that public education, there's a few things that we need education and clarity around including their relationship to the public art plan and the public art process. Chair Ackerman said that there are conversations right now between the Arts Foundation, the city and the Board of Directors that they would like to be included in and that they hoped that the City could share its resources to help the PACDC produce videos to educate the public on the public art process. She added that they value diversity in public art and artists from the region so they would like to develop proposals around verbiage to be included in the public art program, RFQs, RFPs, calls to artists, and instructions to the selection committee that can help without being restrictive. They also discussed the prevalence of desert themes, a free wall in Tucson, and how some artists receive multiple commissions throughout a calendar year and if adding caps or a rider where artists who received

more than one commission would have to work with an emerging artist.

Ms. Hernandez asked if there was any data about artists who have repeatedly received commissions and wondered how many is too many commissions. She expressed that the more people who apply the more chance that more people are selected and cautioned the group that they needed to frame things in the right way to support artists and make public art accessible to as many artists as possible.

Chair Ackerman asked if the Arts Foundation staff had a response to the questions posed by Ms. Hernandez.

Mr. Reyes said that he would be happy to pull that list together and that the data does not favor any one artist as much as that may seem. He added that he would have the information for the next Education Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Hernandez followed up with wondering about capacity with local artists to develop proposals. She added that she first worked with TPAC 35 years ago and that these are not new conversations and that some members of the public say that gatekeeping is happening but that has never been her observation so they need to be careful in how they frame things and how they support what's being said about the function of the PACDC and the work they do.

Mr. Greene commented that one of the things that came up at the subcommittee is that this will be an ongoing process to inform the public and that it would be nice to have data that they can share as well as have clarity on their role. He added that he would like to help with proposals on diversification of content and ideas without being restrictive to artists.

Chair Ackerman said that they are at about time for this item and asked for closing comments.

Mr. Reyes commented that the Arts Foundation has been developing the Public Art Corps to bring emerging artists into the public art field and that the program is almost complete and may launch FY27. He noted that he would invite some PACDC Members for feedback before the program launches tentatively in the Spring of next year and that the Education Subcommittee may want to get involved.

Chair Ackerman said that before they put more effort into trying to promote or advocate for that idea, getting some clarity around what's going to be covered, and how we could participate, and what's going to be done. She invited him to meet outside the meeting to discuss it more.

Co-Chair Hernandez asked for information to be readily available for those who are interested, and that the information is important to have archived and accessible on the website.

Mr. Reyes agreed and said they were working to update the Arts Foundation website to make everything more user friendly.

Chair Ackerman invited everyone to participate in the next Education Subcommittee meeting that will be held in August. She volunteered to work on the practice wall and recapped that Mr. Greene would work on a proposal that introduces diversification of ideas and representation, pursuing a video series would be paused until they hear more from staff, and that they would work on a proposal to be involved in conversations between the Arts Foundation and the City of Tucson regarding the PACDC and invited Ms. Wiehe to reach out to herself, Co-Chair Hernandez, or members of the Education Subcommittee. She also invited other PACDC Members to reach out if they wanted to volunteer on this initiative.

No other comments were made.

6. Review & Approval of June 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Action

Adriane

5

Chair Ackerman introduced the item.

Motion by Anne Lopez to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Lizzy Golden. Approved unanimously via roll call vote.

7. Review of the Artist Selection Process for 22nd St: Camino Seco to Houghton

Action

Ariel

5

Chair Ackerman introduced the item and gave the floor to Ms. Fry, who gave a presentation on the artist selection and procedures for the 22nd St: Camino Seco to Houghton panel selection of Joseph O'Connell of Creative Machines.

Ms. Fry noted that this project was funded by RTA and the public art budget for this project is \$315,000 and the road project takes place in both Ward 2 and Ward 4 with the public art occurring at the intersection of Old Spanish Trail and 22nd. The city will be installing 8 by 8 feet concrete pads in preparation for the artwork.

Ms. Fry added that the eight panelists reviewed 109 applications between May 4th and May 31st. The panel selected the three finalists on June 1st and conducted interviews on June 15th.

Chair Ackerman asked Ms. Fry or any panel members who were present how they spoke about managing the project, their ideas for community engagement, or what set them apart from other applicants.

Ms. Fry responded that the team’s connection to the project, how they lived close by, and were interested in bringing people to their studio to engage in the design process was appreciated by the panel.

Chair Ackerman thanked Ms. Fry for the presentation.

Motion by Anne Lopez to approve the artist selection of Joseph O’Connell for the 22nd St: Camino Seco to Houghton project. Second by Dusty Reyes.

Approved unanimously via roll call vote.

8. Review of the Artist Selection Process for Thrive in the 05 Affordable Housing Projects	Action	Ariel	10
---	--------	-------	----

Chair Ackerman introduced the item and gave the floor to Ms. Fry, who gave a presentation on the artist selection and procedures for the Thrive in the 05 Affordable Housing Projects: Sugar Hill on Stone: Murals and Digital Designs (Artist Rachel Wolfe-Goldsmith), Tucson House: Interior Art Curation (Artist Isaac Caruso), Amazon Flats: Murals and Mosaics (Artist Team Jessica Gonzales and Alex Jimenez), Amazon Flats: Interior Ceiling Sculpture (Artist George Peters and Melanie Walker of Airworks).

Ms. Fry noted that all of the Thrive projects were partnerships with the City of Tucson’s Housing and Community Development, and their nonprofit El Pueblo Housing Development. This project uses LIHTC housing credits and federal and local grants. She added that the Sugar Hill on Stone project’s art budget is \$114,960 for three exterior murals and six digital interior vinyl designs. The panel had eight individuals who reviewed 169 applications before selecting Rachel Wolfe Goldsmith, a muralist, curator, and creative director based in Oakland due to her approach to research, community engagement, and interest in bringing local people into the project.

Ms. Fry then presented on the Tucson House interior design project with the budget of \$58,000 for 82 framed artworks and 5 wall graphics. This project had seven panelists who reviewed 45 applications before selecting Isaac Caruso, a designer, artist, and curator based in Phoenix. The panel choose Mr. Caruso because of his background in arts administration, knowledge of the Tucson area, and how he was interested in incorporating local artworks into the project.

Co-Chair Hernandez asked if Mr. Caruso would be mostly curating for this project.

Ms. Fry responded that it will be a mix. The themes of the project were already selected by the residents to include historic photos of Tucson, desert landscapes, and the Sky Island region so the artist will curate, edit original edits, or feature local art where appropriate.

Ms. Fry went on to present on Amazon Flats with the budget of \$122,935 for murals and mosaics on the west, east, and south wall of the building in the resident yard and the plaza. The nine person panel reviewed 191 applications and selected Jessica Gonzalez and Alex Jimenez because of their ideas, community engagement experience, and work examples.

Last, Ms. Fry presented on the other project from Amazon Flats, an interior ceiling sculpture. This project budget totals \$45,000 and the nine person panel reviewed 69 applications before selecting George Peters and Melanie Walker of Airworks Studio based in Colorado. The panel selected George and Melanie because they work in Tucson during the winter months so have a connection to the area, their work had a lot of variety and durability in the materials they used and they also were interested in incorporating community input and engagement into the project. They were also interested in creating something kinetic, dynamic, and unique that would interact with the skylight.

Ms. Barrios asked for context about this large investment of public art at affordable housing projects.

Ms. Fry noted that the city hadn't received affordable housing credits for a long time so the city had a budget for it now.

Ms. Del Pino shared that this significant investment in over \$300,000 got several media hits since it is a unique partnership.

Mr. Reyes added that these projects are not CIP or bond funded like most of our projects and the city reached out to us to administer the projects similar to how we conduct other public art projects.

Ms. Golden commented that the proposals were beautiful and that she is excited to see the projects come to fruition.

Motion by Liane Hernandez to approve the package of artists selected for the Thrive in the 05 Affordable Housing Projects. Second by Anne Lopez.

Approved unanimously via roll call vote.

9. Public Art Director's Report

Information

Wylwyn

5

Chair Ackerman introduced the item and gave the floor to Mr. Reyes.

Mr. Reyes reported that the Artist Roster closed with 140 submissions and thanked the PACDC Members for their help with promoting this opportunity. He commented that the next projects to launch are Jacobs Park and Jesse Owens Park and to sign up through the panelist interest form to participate on the panel. Mr. Reyes noted that they are in the process of securing funding to pay eligible community members starting FY27.

Chair Ackerman asked if there was information they could send to community members.

Mr. Reyes said there wasn't but every new RFQ will mention this information.

Ms. Del Pino commented that they promote this on social media and on the website under each RFQ.

Chair Ackerman clarified if they would promote the community member compensation.

Mr. Reyes said that was a good idea.

Chair Ackerman asked for information on how many of the applicants were from Southern Arizona versus other areas of Arizona. She also asked if there was openings still for the Artist Roster panel.

Mr. Reyes responded that the panel was already assembled and the panel will be reviewing the applications in groups so that each group reviews half of the applicants and that the review will happen in early August.

10. Update from Arts Foundations Communication Team

Study

Staff

10

Chair Ackerman introduced the item and gave the floor to Ms. Del Pino.

Ms. Del Pino gave a presentation on events that happened in June including Ms. Shaw and Ms. Gallego attending and presenting at the Americans for the Arts Conference in Albuquerque, NM. She also shared that the Miracle Mile mosaic artwork renovation of the Gary Mackender artwork was completed at the end of June by Paloma Jacqueline. She reported that the Arts Foundation awarded \$320,000 in grant funding to 23 organizations with a third of those being new grantees.

Ms. Del Pino added that staff visited El Pueblo and El Rio center with the Mayor and Council members from Ward 1 and Ward 5. Last, the Arts Foundation Board of Directors has a new member, Melissa Brown-Dominguez and a new president, Stephanie Rosenberg. upcoming grants, programs, and opportunities promoted by the Arts Foundation. Finally, she noted that the Grants team met for a retreat and the Arts Foundation and other community members met with ADOT for a listening session.

Mr. Reyes mentioned that the ADOT convening was fruitful with ideas shared by community members including Corky Poster who brought up ADOT and their acquisition of land and buildings like the Citizens Warehouse, which is still in limbo.

Chair Ackerman thanked Ms. Del Pino for the presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Waner asked if there was opportunity to help support the Steinfeld warehouse or other buildings closed during the construction of the road.

Mr. Reyes said that ADOT doesn't make these decisions alone they work with the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) who decides on how public art is decided or placed on ADOT projects and that he will keep the PACDC posted on new developments.

11. Request Additions for Future Agenda

Announcement

Adriane

3

Chair Ackerman asked if there were any requests for future agendas.

Liane Hernandez asked if the Education Subcommittee Update item could continue to be placed at the top of the agenda for future meetings.

12. Adjournment

Adriane

Chair Ackerman adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM.

Public Art and Community Design Committee Meetings are Open to the Public

Citizens, particularly artists, interested in public art are encouraged to attend. Action may be taken on any agenda item. This meeting will be held virtually unless otherwise noted on the agenda. Meeting materials will be presented as part of the virtual meeting. Community members who wish to speak at the Call to Audience can click on the link below and will be added to a list on a first come first serve basis: <https://airtable.com/shr1SX8hMC5u3iS5p>

Committee Members

Anne Lopez—W4, Lizzy Golden—W5, Emily Tate—D1, James Glock—AF, Janet Fischer—W6, Maureen Lueck—County Administrator, Nancy Fung—AF, Valerie Sipp—AF, Adriane Ackerman—Mayor, E. Liane Hernandez—W1, Alisha Vasquez—D5, Brandon Varela—AF, Jacqueline Jean Barrios—AF, Adia Jamille – AF, Wesley Fawcett Creigh – City Manager, Dusty Reyes – AF, Logan Greene – W3, Audrey Waner – W3

Accessibility

If you require an accommodation or materials in accessible format or require a foreign language interpreter or materials in a language other than English for this event, please call the Arts Foundation at 520.624.0595 ext 3. or email PACD@ArtsFoundTucson.Org at least 2 business days in advance.

Links

- Serving on a City of Tucson [Board, Committee & Commission](#) is one way that Tucson's residents can participate in local government. Boards and Commissions typically serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council. Tucson benefits from the knowledge and expertise that volunteers bring to these Boards and Commissions.

- The [Public Art and Community Design Committee \(PACDC\)](#) is a standing committee of the Arts Foundation that functions as an interagency committee operating in compliance with Boards and Commissions.
- The City of Tucson uses [Administrative Directives 7.01-1 through 7.01-7](#) to implement the City's Public Art Program.
- Pima County uses the [Board of Supervisors Policy C 3.3 and Administrative Procedures 3-16](#) for the implementation of the Pima County Public Art Program.