

Below is the sequence of communication with the City of Tacoma requested with Tacoma Arts Live regarding mediation. This response arrived to Tacoma Arts Live only after the Tacoma City Council forced City staff them to the table for discussion. At this point, it was the end of the process for Tacoma Arts Live.

**May 25, 2021:** Mayor Woodards and Council member Ushka hosted a zoom call. After a long discussion, we agreed to mediation that would move us toward negotiating a management contract.

**May 26, 2021: a text from Tacoma Arts Live's Executive Director David Fischer to Mayor Woodards**  
Madame Mayor! Thank you and CM Ushka for the thoughtful conversation on Monday. We sincerely appreciate your acknowledgment of our work in the diversity space! I want to alert you to certain pressures. Our deadline to be out of the City offices in the Jones Bldg is July 30. In order to meet that date, I must contract with the moving company by June 10. So, effectively, that is the date by which the City and TAL must have a go or no-go answer, and by which I will be required to communicate with our patrons. Finally, I want to underscore the feeling you expressed about a for-profit, untested, and unrelated vendor being selected: quoting from our CITIZENS via the City's own 2025 Plan, per the ARTS section, urging the City to "not bring something in (but rather to) nurture and grow what is already here."

**June 1, 2021: email chain between Tadd Willie, Deputy City Manager to David Fischer, Tacoma Arts Live Executive Director**

David:

I hope you are well and had a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend. It was beautiful.

We wanted to touch base with you, as we understand during your meeting last week with the Mayor and Councilmember Ushka that there was a recommended path forward -- through discussions with a third party mediator.

Below is our proposed three (3) step process for this mediation:

1. Determine and agree upon a third party facilitator/mediator
2. Meet separately with facilitator/mediator to discuss objectives and individual perspectives in preparation for the facilitated meeting (proposed objectives below)
3. Meet together to share thoughts on, discuss, and work through the following objectives:
  - a. Develop a relationship of trust
  - b. Understand the intent and purpose of the RFP (from both perspectives)
  - c. Discuss requirements for a "best practice" facilities management contract

We hope to get started with this process as soon as possible. Please let us know your thoughts on the above process.

Tadd Wille  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Tacoma

-----Original Message-----

From: David Fischer <[davidf@tacomaartslive.org](mailto:davidf@tacomaartslive.org)>

Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 1:07 PM

To: Wille, Tadd <[tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org)>

Cc: Bedier, Kim <[kbedier@tacomavenues.org](mailto:kbedier@tacomavenues.org)>; Hunter, Lillian <[lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org)>; [klein.ronald@comcast.net](mailto:klein.ronald@comcast.net); [cpjlakewood@hotmail.com](mailto:cpjlakewood@hotmail.com)

Subject: Re: Path Forward

Tadd,

I sincerely appreciate this effort.

To clarify:

- our extended agreement will expire June 30, 2021
- we are needing to clear the City venues by July 30, and therefore, need to be in contract with movers by June 10
- as discussed with staff and elected leaders, we have no interest in responding to the existing RFP, and see no need to discuss that document

- if there is interest in negotiating a new contract through a third party, we will do so in good faith, but time is of the essence.

Please advise.

Thank you,  
David

-----Original Message-----

From: Wille, Tadd <[tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org)>

Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 5:37 PM

To: David Fischer <[davidf@tacomaartslive.org](mailto:davidf@tacomaartslive.org)>

Cc: Bedier, Kim <[kbedier@tacomavenues.org](mailto:kbedier@tacomavenues.org)>; Hunter, Lillian <[lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org)>;  
[klein.ronald@comcast.net](mailto:klein.ronald@comcast.net); [cpjlakewood@hotmail.com](mailto:cpjlakewood@hotmail.com)

Subject: RE: Path Forward

Thank you David for your quick response. I appreciate your willingness to engage in this process.

To be clear, the City is continuing to move forward with the RFP and is currently evaluating, through a committee process, applications submitted. The intent of the mediation is not to negotiate a new contract with TAL through a third party.

The purpose of our mediation is to heal and/or rebuild the relationship of trust between the City and Tacoma Art Live. In so doing, it may be important to understand each other's perspectives on how we got to where we are today and how we move forward --- to include the intent of the RFP and what are best practices that need to be in place for any future facilities management contract (regardless of contract award).

Do you have thoughts on any mediators? The Mayor mentioned you had shared Lyle Quasim as a possible option. I think that is a great idea and would be happy to reach out to him to explore his thoughts and availability.

Best,

Tadd Wille  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Tacoma

-----Original Message-----

From: David Fischer <[davidf@tacomaartslive.org](mailto:davidf@tacomaartslive.org)>

Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:44 PM

To: Wille, Tadd <[tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org)>

Cc: Bedier, Kim <[kbedier@tacomavenues.org](mailto:kbedier@tacomavenues.org)>; Hunter, Lillian <[lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org)>;  
[klein.ronald@comcast.net](mailto:klein.ronald@comcast.net); [cpjlakewood@hotmail.com](mailto:cpjlakewood@hotmail.com); Woodards, Victoria <[victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org)>;

Ushka, Catherine <[cushka@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cushka@cityoftacoma.org)>; Walker, Kristina <[Kristina.Walker@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Kristina.Walker@cityoftacoma.org)>; McCarthy,  
Conor <[Conor.McCarthy@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Conor.McCarthy@cityoftacoma.org)>; Blocker, Keith <[Keith.Blocker@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Keith.Blocker@cityoftacoma.org)>; Thoms, Robert

<[robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org)>; Hines, John <[John.Hines@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:John.Hines@cityoftacoma.org)>; Beale, Chris  
<[chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org)>

Subject: City staff has clarified

Tadd,

This is a completely different intent than discussed with Mayor Woodards and CM Ushka, and as expressed by several other CM's, too. They have expressed the desire to retain Tacoma Arts Live as facility manager. If the City staff does not wish to pursue that pathway, we understand. Tacoma Arts Live assumed that outcome when we did not submit on the RFP due to its radical departure from 42 years of practice.

Mediation is unnecessary because the relationship moving forward is defined: Tacoma Arts Live is a Resident Arts Organization; and a for-profit vendor will become the facility manager.

We think the best pathway to healing is through the practice of direct communication, transparency and the keeping of contractual commitments.

Thank you for your efforts.

David

David Fischer  
Executive Director  
Tacoma Arts Live  
O: 253.591.5582 • F: 253.591.2013  
901 Broadway, Suite 700  
Tacoma, WA 98402

-----Original Message-----

From: Wille, Tadd <[tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org)>  
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 7:41 AM  
To: David Fischer <[davidf@tacomaartslive.org](mailto:davidf@tacomaartslive.org)>  
Cc: Woodards, Victoria <[victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org)>; Hunter, Lillian <[lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org)>;  
Bedier, Kim <[kbedier@tacomavenues.org](mailto:kbedier@tacomavenues.org)>; [lquasim@msn.com](mailto:lquasim@msn.com)  
Subject: RE: Path Forward

David:

Thank you for your email. I agree that the best pathway to healing is through the practice of direct communication, transparency and the keeping of contractual commitments.

I do, however, hope you will reconsider -- as it is important that we have a trusting relationship as continued partners. We have reached out to Lyle Quasim, and he is happy to assist with our discussions.

While the City is moving forward with the RFP, we hope for an enhanced appreciation of TAL's thoughts (and we hope to be able share our own as well) regarding what will be required in any facility management contract going forward. Understanding TAL willingness/desire to also meet these contract requirements will be important in our consideration of the current RFP application proposals.

Best,

Tadd Wille  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Tacoma

From: David Fischer <[davidf@tacomaartslive.org](mailto:davidf@tacomaartslive.org)>  
Date: 10 June 2021, 8:10:00 a.m. PDT  
Subject: RE: Path Forward

Tadd,

Thanks again for your efforts. We have the utmost respect for Lyle and sincerely appreciate his willingness to meet with us.

However, based on four years of an ever-eroding relationship, during which time both Council and Tacoma Arts Live repeatedly requested that City staff engage in good faith discussions; City staff consistently chose to ignore and/or delay those requests. Now, it is too late. We are not interested in any mediation. Time and sincere actions are the best medicine for healing.

All the best,  
David

David Fischer  
Executive Director  
Tacoma Arts Live  
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