



SUMMARY UPDATE AS OF JUNE 18, 2021

Thank you to our community! We are grateful for your kind words and the expressions of support. At this time, Tacoma Arts Live is not requesting advocacy. The City of Tacoma staff has set the path forward and are unwilling to deviate. From here, Tacoma Arts Live must move on and we are excited to turn our focus to the historic Tacoma Armory! For anyone who missed the update earlier this week, here's a summary:

Tacoma Arts Live is bewildered by the City staff decisions and wary of their intentions in this Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The result has been a years-long erosion of trust. Our concerns were outlined in documents sent to the Tacoma City Council and are documented in detail at TacomaArtsLive.org/updates. Our lack of trust is due to:

- The City of Tacoma staff making ongoing, one-sided changes to the rules of operation of our contract
- Secrecy in declaring their intention to move forward with the RFP. The City of Tacoma staff refused to engage in open communication to discuss any needed improvements in our contract and to negotiate on its renewal as stipulated in the existing terms of our contract. During this time period, Tacoma Arts Live requested to clarify and negotiate. The City of Tacoma staff could have inquired about building a quality RFP. City staff refused.
- Nearly two-year delay in publishing the RFP with no engagement of Tacoma Arts Live except to take all our management data and copy it into the RFP.
- Suspension and zeroing out of our agreement seven months before its contractual end date.

Despite all of this, Tacoma Arts Live's Board and staff had formally agreed to submit a response to the RFP, until it was published. As the terms of the RFP demanded such significant change in practice it would upend Tacoma Arts Live's business model. Further, the language included in the RFP clearly in declared no substantial deviation from the scope stated would be accepted. Under these conditions, Tacoma Arts Live viewed the RFP as unacceptable and declared it so immediately to Tacoma City Council and staff.

The only reason the City of Tacoma staff rescinded the demotion of Tacoma Arts Live from Resident Arts Organization status is because of Tacoma City Council advocacy and because we declared we would not submit on the RFP as structured. At no time did the City of Tacoma offer to remove any obstacles to our submitting. Therefore, potential negotiation on the RFP was a non-starter for Tacoma Art Live. If that had been offered, we would have submitted.

Some Tacoma City Council members suggested mediation to work toward a new contract and we accepted that opportunity. In response, City of Tacoma staff responded by declaring the RFP was legally required to proceed unchanged, even though it actually declares that the City has the right to amend or even cancel the RFP outright. Then City of Tacoma staff suggested that mediation work could be scheduled so that we could "heal" our relationship, but not address the RFP. Tacoma Arts Live has declined that offer. We believe that at this point, any healing will best come over time and intentions maybe be demonstrated by the City of Tacoma living up to the contractual obligations between that are currently established.

For 42 years, Tacoma Arts Live has carried the dual title of facility manager and the founding Resident Arts Organization (RAO). During this time, we were committed to allowing all RAOs first calendar date reservation and to adhering to exactly the same rental rates, fees, and policies. We have had no complaints and our track record that is documented in our Impact Report speaks for itself.