

## **2010 AMOCAT Arts Awards**

The AMOCAT Arts awards recognize those in our community who provide distinctive contributions to the arts. The honorees work hard to support and build our community by innovating in artistic excellence. AMOCAT award recipients are nominated and selected by the Tacoma Arts Commission.

The three categories for recognition are Community Outreach by an Artist, Community Outreach by an Organization, and Arts Patron. Each exhibits vision, dedication, and action in creating a lively arts community in Tacoma.

### **2010 Community Outreach by an Artist award**

**Oliver Doriss**

[www.oliverdoriss.com](http://www.oliverdoriss.com)

Oliver Doriss is an experienced artist accomplished in a variety of mediums and disciplines. He began developing his multimedia sculptural work at the age of 14 and progressed to glass by the time he was 18. After receiving his BFA from Massachusetts College of Art 1996 he devoted his energy to the glass craft, becoming a driving force within the modern glass movement. He has worked with such artists and designers as the celebrated Dale Chihuly and Donna Karan, both producing and interpreting their work.

Oliver moved to Tacoma in 2003 and, in December 2007, he opened Fulcrum Gallery, an influential display space catering to contemporary art and installation created by up and coming national & regional artists. Fulcrum hosts formal Artist Talks, which have been hugely popular in providing an opportunity to learn about the work through the artists' own words, adding a considerable amount of depth to each exhibit.

"For some years my interest in a display venue had been languishing in the background of my artistic career. I had the unique opportunity to build out this venue in Hilltop. With Tacoma's incredible support of the arts and the availability of affordable space, I don't believe I could make a gallery like this work anywhere else." - Oliver Doriss

### **2010 Community Outreach by an Organization award**

**Fab-5**

[www.fab-5.org](http://www.fab-5.org)

Fab-5 was founded to provide conduits for the youth to develop their talent within hip-hop culture. The organization aims to bridge the gap between the youth of Pierce County, specifically the hip-hop generation and the older generation to provide mentorship, leadership and positive role models.

In 2005, responding to the lack of relevant creative outlets for undeserved youth, Fab-5 created the L.I.F.E. program -- an intensive series of urban arts workshops designed to

allow youth to develop and explore their unique voices through a variety of different mediums including music (DJing/music production), movement (breakdancing), visual arts (legal graffiti art) and creative writing workshops (lyricist's lounge).

In addition to urban art, Fab-5 students also learn how these mediums connect to traditional styles of expression through additional instruction in music theory/composition, freeform movement, mixed-media art, drawing, color theory, typography, spoken word, screen printing, public art & mural planning. To avoid economic barriers that exist for many students, Fab-5 provides all art supplies and equipment for their program.

Although Fab-5 work is centered on creating art, their main outcomes and objectives are cultivating communities where young people from diverse backgrounds can gather, collaborate, learn and share ideas.

## **2010 Arts Patron award**

### **Urban Grace Church**

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[www.urbangracetacoma.org](http://www.urbangracetacoma.org)

Urban Grace has an intentional emphasis on the arts being a central and strategic focus of the congregation. This philosophy is two-fold:

1. A belief that the arts are central to the development and renaissance of downtown Tacoma and essential to the very character and ethos of Tacoma as a city. Urban Grace sees its role as participating in and cultivating that renaissance and identity.
2. A desire to build bridges between faith communities and the arts and to see collaboration and development of art that enhances spiritual life, dialog, and worship; and for faith communities to serve, nurture, and care for artists.

Urban Grace seeks to fulfill this mission in many ways including establishing the Soul of the City Poet Laureate position for Tacoma; partnering with Fab-5 to create a mural for the Rialto Theater; and supporting and integrating artists in their worship and in opportunities for exhibition and performance in all disciplines including dance, music, visual arts and poetry. Urban Grace is currently home to Tacoma City Ballet, MLK Ballet, and Freedom Dance. In addition they provide space for Tacoma School of the Arts' showcases and classes and the Tacoma Youth Symphony Associations' rehearsals and shows. They have also hosted their own music shows and have partnered with the Warehouse and other local musicians to bring concerts to Tacoma.

Urban Grace Church is an ecumenical and inter-denominational Christian congregation in downtown Tacoma with a long history of community involvement and city-wide presence going back to its roots as First Baptist Church.

