



Tacoma Arts Commission 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Tacoma Arts Commission acts as a catalyst to support the ecosystem of the arts in Tacoma through funding, public art, community programming, technical assistance, stewardship, and advocacy.

This report illustrates the far-reaching impacts that the City’s investments in arts and culture have on our community.

FUNDING

Arts Anchor Fund

Operating support for Tacoma’s larger arts institutions who ‘anchor’ the cultural community through exhibited stability and excellence.

- \$255,000 in funding distributed to nine organizations for the 2013-14 biennium
- 1450 unduplicated events hosted in Tacoma in 2013 – events ran a total of 10,828 times
- 472,403 people served in Tacoma in 2013
- 118,291 **free tickets** provided in 2013
- 225,024 Tacoma patrons and 256,078 Non-Tacoma patrons served in 2013
- \$9.17 million in collateral spending by all patrons in 2013
- Serving audiences from Council Districts 1 – 5 and the region
- Organizations based in Council Districts 1 - 3



Arts Projects

Supports a diversity of grassroots projects throughout the City.

- 2013 Arts Projects
 - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 20 organizations
 - 122 events hosted in 2013
 - 63,741 people served, covering Council Districts 1 – 5
 - 43,513 people admitted for **free** in 2013
 - 987 artists involved in the creation of these projects
 - \$115,568 in total funding requests from 28 applicants
- 2014 Arts Projects
 - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 19 organizations
 - \$92,400 in total funding requests from 23 applicants



Tacoma Artists Initiative Program

*Supports the creation of high quality work by Tacoma artists working in all disciplines. Artists share their talents with the community through **free** public components.*

- \$40,000 in funding distributed to 16 individual artists for the 2013-14 biennium
- \$90,000 in total funding requests from 36 applicants
- Serving artists from Council Districts 1 – 5



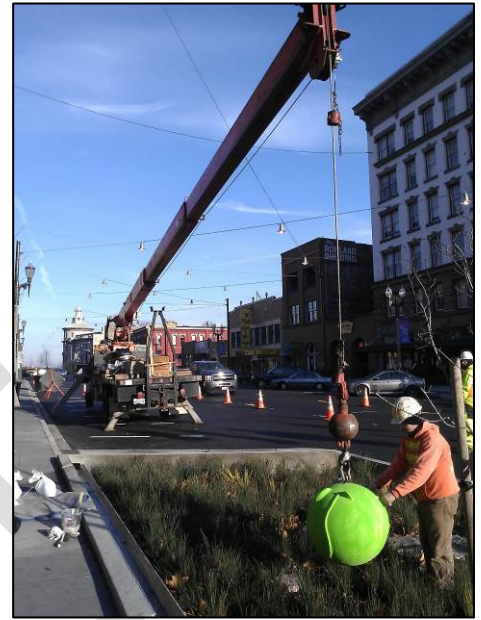
“Your support these many years has been constant, and imperative to our existence... Thank you for remembering us, for supporting us, for encouraging us. Your help is appreciated more than you can know.”

- Connie Walle, President of Puget Sound Poetry Connection and Arts Projects funding recipient

MUNICIPAL ART PROGRAM

Public Art projects

- “Green Flash” – Elizabeth Conner is the design team artist for Pacific Avenue Streetscape. Working with AHBL Architects she developed a concept that highlights the green nature of this extensive transformation of downtown Tacoma’s main street. Permanent green tile and sculptures were installed in the rain gardens, creating connections from 7th to 17th. Six additional large-scale spheres will also be installed along the sidewalks in 2014. Elizabeth is also the design team artist and liaison with the Tacoma Art Museum and Olson Kundig Architects as we partner on the redevelopment of the Tacoma Art Museum plaza and adjacent City rights of way. Funded through an award of an “Our Town” grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, written by Arts Administrator, Amy McBride.
- Human Rights Legacy – Community dedication of the three contemplative seating benches by Paul Rucker.
- Tacoma Gateway (on contract with Sound Transit) – Conducted research and community open houses for the creation of a large-scale public art piece at S. 25th and Pacific Avenue by artist team Sean Orlando and David Schulman.
- Public Art: In Depth (PA:ID) – Public art training program for 23 Tacoma artists including legal and engineering consultations. Artists competed for 8 public projects in 2012; work on the projects continued through 2013.
 - Old Town Dock – Chandler O’Leary. Fabrication, installation, and dedication of ‘Droplets’, a series of 24 vignettes of Tacoma history
 - Foss Waterway Seaport – Bret Lyon. Presentation, fabrication, installation, and dedication of an indoor-outdoor sculpture
 - Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade – Ed Kroupa. Design and presentation of a series of six aluminum sculptures
 - 66th Street Underpass (collaboration with Sound Transit) – Claudia Riedener, Kenji Stoll, and Christopher Jordan. Research and collaboration on a large-scale tile and aerosol paint mural
 - ‘A’ Street Passageway (collaboration with Sound Transit) – Diane Hansen. Design, presentation, fabrication, installation, and dedication of an interactive personalized padlock project
 - Pacific Bridge Underpass (collaboration with Sound Transit) – James Sinding. Design and presentation of a pedestrian-scale public art project
 - Bay Terrace – Yuki Nakamura. Design and presentation of a series of three concrete art benches
- Public Art Maintenance
 - Chihuly Bridge of Glass – cleaning of Crystal Towers and replacing the lighting with an LED system, diagnostics on Venetian Wall
 - Sun King – Development of plans and bids collected to resite piece to park at Dock Street
 - Totem Pole – Tacoma Arts Commission reviewed structural issues and possible solutions and voted to brace the pole in place at Fireman’s Park and include interpretive signage about the history of the pole
 - Waterforest – Diagnostic work is underway to determine how best to prevent future damage to the piece
 - PAVE Bell - Development of plans to repair and reinstall the piece along Ruston Way



Photos from top: Installation of the rain garden elements of Elizabeth Conner’s ‘Green Flash’ project along Pacific Avenue. Staff photo. Dedication of Chandler O’Leary’s ‘Droplets’ at Old Town Dock. Photo property of City of Tacoma. Diane Hansen’s ‘Lock-On Tacoma’ at the A Street Passageway in the Dome District. Photo by Terry Rishel.

ARTS ENVIROCHALLENGER

- Arts EnviroChallenger - Provides relevant educational opportunities for K-5 students in Tacoma Public Schools that integrate visual arts and science to increase access to and quality of arts and science education and raise student awareness of environmental practices.
 - Serviced 163 classrooms (approximately 3,900 students) between January and December
 - 57 classrooms waitlisted for 2014
 - Residencies are taught by professional teaching artists and meet the state learning standards for visual arts and science
 - Program administered by Arts Impact, a program of Puget Sound Educational Service District



“Thank you for teaching us how to make sculptures. Thank you for teaching us how to reuse, reduce and recycle.”
- Landyn, 3rd grade student at DeLong Elementary

“Thank you for teaching us to reuse. I like to use symmetry. It is hard to find the middle of the paper. It was fun making the insect sculptures. My insect’s name is Maureen.”
- Devin, 3rd grade student at DeLong Elementary

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Spaceworks Tacoma

- Collaboration between the City of Tacoma and Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Activated 24 underused spaces
 - Placed 9 creative businesses into spaces
 - 5 businesses transitioned to leases for a total of 10
 - 18 large-scale art installations in vacant windows (Artscapes)
 - 3 murals at 11th and Market Street
- Attracted over 50,000 visitors to under-utilized commercial spaces
- Over 50 events and performances, many **free**
- Assisted 30 Creative Enterprise clients with training and technical assistance
- Cohort of 14 businesses in pipeline for future spaces
- Inspired over 20 media features including segments on Evening Magazine, Business Matters, and artTown
- Staffing increased from .6fte to 1.6fte



“Thank you for an overall excellent program. I learned a lot. The whole thing helped me to think more seriously and realistically about my business and the last session really helped me get excited about Tacoma. Sessions/ exercises that stand out as particularly valuable for me include the cash flow, business plan (and thinking about how life fits in), and visual merchandising/ marketing.”
- 2013 Creative Enterprise Training Program participant



Tacoma Murals Project

- Collaboration between Tacoma Arts Commission & Community Based Services as part of City of Tacoma's Safe, Clean, & Attractive initiative.
- Fourth year of Tacoma Murals Project
 - Seven new murals created by 8 regional artists in collaboration with community in Council Districts 2, 3 & 4
 - Theater District – 616 St. Helens Avenue
 - New Tacoma – 1717 South Fawcett Avenue
 - Stadium District – 120 Tacoma Avenue North
 - McKinley – East 43rd Street and East C Street
 - Dome District – Dock Street and D Street
 - Pacific Avenue – 5016 A Street
 - Hillside – 2502 South Commerce Street



Art at Work Month

- Opening Party
 - Celebrated 12th anniversary of Art at Work Month
 - Collaboration with Foss Waterway Seaport
 - Over 350 people in attendance at this **free** community event
- AMOCAT Arts Awards – *recognizing outstanding outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts*
 - Nominations made by community; award selection made by Arts Commission
 - Arts Patron: Erivan and Helga Haub and family
 - Community Outreach by an Organization: Puget Sound Book Artists
 - Community Outreach by an Individual: David Domkoski
- Community Events
 - 417 community-produced events held in November
 - 51 classes and workshops held in November
 - 83 visual art exhibits
- Studio Tour
 - 60 artists at 39 studio locations covering Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 5
 - An average of 111 visitors to each studio (approximately 70% were visitors the artists did not personally know)
 - Estimated \$24,000 in earnings from sales of work over this two-day **free** event
- Communication and Sponsorship
 - Partnered with Pacific Lutheran University to design Art at Work print and online materials
 - Continued functionality improvement of ArtAtWorkTacoma.com. Included searchable calendar of events and an interactive map
 - TacomaArts blog focused on artists participating in the Tacoma Studio Tour and events happening throughout the month
 - Twice-weekly e-newsletters announced upcoming arts and culture events
 - Secured sponsorships with Click! Cable TV, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, KPLU, Tacoma Weekly, Weekly Volcano, and Premier Media Group



“[I] love Art at Work and all the work you do. Thank you, I think this event really puts Tacoma on the art radar more than anything.”
- Benjamin Davis, artist

“Kudos on the publication of the arts calendar... Beautifully put together and comprehensive! You put Seattle to shame. We are familiar with a number of Tacoma's poets and always find Tacoma to be a vital center for the arts with active participation by its creative citizens.”
- Jack R. Evans

artTown TV Show

- artTown is a cultural documentary-style TV show exploring Tacoma's emergence as a major creative hub in the Pacific Northwest. The quarterly series offers segments featuring diverse perspectives on a variety of creative disciplines.
 - Researched, planned, and produced the first 45-minute episode



"Thank you for bringing to Tacoma a new TV show that not only focuses on the arts but also is interesting!"
- Nicole Panekotti

TacomaArt & Culture on Click! ON Demand

- Collaborated with Click! On Demand to air film, digital art, visual art, literary art and music content created by or featuring funded organizations and artists, Spaceworks Tacoma participants, and the Arts Commission
- The pieces created and shown through this partnership expands the audiences for local arts organizations, arts venues, experiences, and practicing artists



Tacoma Poet Laureate

- Conducted a call to artists and selected Lucas Smiraldo as 2013-15 Tacoma Poet Laureate
- Lucas Smiraldo hosted 20 Poet Laureate readings, workshops, and presentations in 2013, serving 1,633 attendees.



National Arts Program

- Annual City of Tacoma employee and family member visual art exhibit and awards event provides employees a chance to showcase their creative side and build employee morale
 - 152 pieces of visual art, created by 97 artists, displayed at the Tacoma Municipal Building and Tacoma Public Utilities
 - \$3,750 grant from National Arts Program



Artist Live/Work Space Development

- Hosted 2-day site visit with Artspace to conduct research regarding local options for developing artist live/work spaces in Tacoma
- Conducted pre-feasibility study

Film Forward: Advancing Cultural Dialogue

- Screened eight **free** films with accompanying moderated discussions across Tacoma
- Partnered with Grand Cinema, Washington State History Museum, Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma Public Schools, Metro Parks, University of Washington-Tacoma, and University of Puget Sound
- Produced in partnership with the Sundance Institute, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Institute of Museum and Library Services



Professional Development Workshops

- Washington State Arts Alliance – hosted monthly educational round-tables on issues affecting the arts on the national, state, county and city levels

GRANTS

National Endowment for the Arts

- \$200,000 Our Town grant for the Tacoma Art Museum Plaza and Pacific Avenue Streetscape (secured in 2011)
- \$40,000 Art Works grant for Spaceworks Tacoma

JPMorgan Chase

- \$20,000 grant to conduct a pre-feasibility study by Artspace

Community Development Block Grant

- \$70,000 grant for Spaceworks Tacoma

Forest Foundation

- \$10,000 grant for Spaceworks Tacoma

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

- \$10,000 Vibrant Community grant for Art at Work Month
- \$10,000 Vibrant Community grant for Spaceworks Tacoma

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

- Select presentations representing Tacoma's Arts & Culture
 - Washington Association of Cities, Kennewick, WA
 - Creative Class Retool, 2013 – Amy McBride
 - Art & Sci, Tacoma Art Museum
 - Tacoma's Cultural Ecosystem – Amy McBride
 - Northwest Public Art Network, Seattle, WA
 - Tacoma Murals Project - Naomi Strom-Avila
 - Public Art: In Depth - Amy McBride
 - Northwest Booking Conference/Arts Northwest, Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center
 - Get inside their heads! Funders Panel
- Updated and migrated all arts content from TacomaCulture.org to CityofTacoma.org/arts
- Maintained ArtAtWorkTacoma.com, SpaceworksTacoma.com, two blogs, two Facebook groups with over 2,850 fans, and two email listservs with over 1,300 members

TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION

- 15 volunteers served in 2013: Jan Brazzell, Rachel Cardwell, Robin Echtele, J.D. Elquist, Chad P. Hall, Matthew Hudgins, Traci Kelly, Donald Lacky, Dane Meyer, Zach Powers, Scott Ramsey, Catherine Stegeman, Mike Sweney, Wanda Thompson, and Jana Wennstrom
- Commission demographics: Council Districts 1- 4; ranging in age from teens to 60's; expertise as practicing artists, arts professionals, educators, and arts supporters/patrons
- Lauren Walker and Marty Campbell served as City Council liaisons
- 981 hours of volunteer time in 2013

