

The Tacoma Arts Commission supports 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

Tacoma Arts Commission supported 26,089 events, serving 1,111,128 attendees in 2015 through the following programs:

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 2015-16 biennium
- 1,538 unduplicated events hosted in Tacoma in 2015; events ran a total of 13,848 times
- 124,209 people admitted for free in 2015
- 486,692 people served within Tacoma in 2015
- 233,639 Tacoma patrons and 262,293 Non-Tacoma patrons served in 2015
- \$9.547 million in collateral spending by all patrons in 2015
- Serving audiences from Council Districts 1 – 5 and the region
- Organizations based in Council Districts 1 - 3

Arts Projects

Supports a diversity of grassroots arts projects throughout the City.

- 2015 Arts Projects
 - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 18 organizations
 - 198 events hosted in 2015
 - 79,930 people served, covering Council Districts 1 – 5
 - 57,276 people admitted for free in 2015
 - 1,263 artists involved in the creation of these projects
 - \$68,150 in total funding requests from 19 applicants
- 2016 Arts Projects
 - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 20 organizations
 - \$87,700 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 2015-16 biennium
- \$80,000 in total funding requests from 32 applicants
- Serving artists from Council Districts 1, 2, 3, & 5



"We are filling a need and offering a variety of music that is not readily available on the Tacoma scene. Thank you for your steadfast support."

*- Pamela Ryker, Artistic Director of Classical Tuesdays in Old Town,
Arts Projects funding recipient*

PUBLIC ART

Municipal Art Program

- Portable Works – Selection and purchase of 32 pieces of original artwork from regional artists including: Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Zack Bent, Gala Bent, Buddy Bunting, Romson Bustillo, MalPina Chan, Bill Colby, Neeka (Lloyd) Cook, Peter de Lory, Lynn Di Nino, Karen Doten, Jennifer Frohwerk, Randi Ganulin, Sarah Gilbert, Julia Haack, Claire Jones, Eunice Kim, Fred Lisaius, Hugo Ludeña, Jeremy Mangan, Kelda Martensen, Chandler O'Leary, Marvin Oliver, Mary Randlett, Elise Richman, Samuella Samaniego, Samantha Scherer, Preston Singletary, Jessica Spring, and Susan Zoccola
- Lincoln District Revitalization – Horatio Hung-Yan Law. Artist selection, preliminary research, and work with the design team for the 38th Street improvement project, informed by community engagement
- Prairie Line Trail Spur – Susan Zoccola. Artist selection and preliminary research for the 15th Street Overpass. Partnership with Foss Waterway Development Authority
- 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 2015
 - Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade – Ed Kroupa. Fabrication, installation, and public dedication of 6-part bronze sculpture.
 - Bay Terrace Phase II – Yuki Nakamura. Public dedication 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
 - Water Forest – Deinstallation of damaged pieces and convening of Water Forest Task Force to determine future of sculpture
 - Shipment to China – Restoration of Hai Ying Wu's bronze artwork, currently on long-term loan to the Foss Waterway Seaport

Public Art Consulting

- Tacoma Gateway (on contract with Sound Transit) – Sean Orlando and David Shulman. Presentation and design proposal for the creation of a large-scale public art piece at S. 26th and Pacific Avenue
- Sound Transit Trestle (on contract with Sound Transit) – Jeremy Mangan. Artist selection and preliminary research for a large-scale, 2D mural on porcelain enamel
- Bay Terrace Phase I (on contract with Tacoma Housing Authority) – Diane Hansen and Jennifer Weddermann. Public dedication of a steel and glass wall-mounted piece
- Bay Terrace Phase II (on contract with Tacoma Housing Authority) – Chris Jordan and Kenji Stoll. Presentation and design proposal for the creation of a large-scale design-integrated artwork, informed by community engagement with Bay Terrace residents
- Metro Parks Tacoma Art Plan (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Public Art Program development and multi-year public art plan
- Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues. Artist selection for 2 large-scale interior installations at the new aquarium
- Waterfront Phase I (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Adam Kuby. Artist selection and proposal for design-team work and a large scale signature artwork for the park joining Point Ruston and Point Defiance



ARTS ENVIROCHALLENGER

- Partnership with Environmental Services and Arts Impact
- Provides **free** 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 185 classrooms (approximately 4,400 students) between January and December 2015
 - 107 classrooms booked for January - June 2016
 - New water quality curriculum developed and piloted
 - Residencies are taught by three 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 so much for this program, we are required to focus so much on academics and testing right now, it is hard to fit in enough art. These lessons do such a good job of melding environmental and artistic studies while being engaging and enjoyable for students!"

- Kindergarten teacher at DeLong Elementary

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Spaceworks Tacoma

- Partnership with Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Celebrated 5 years of activating the streetscape and revitalizing neighborhoods
- Provided training and technical assistance to over 30 Creative Enterprise clients
- Helped launch 17 creative businesses into community storefronts and vacant spaces
- Presented 29 art installations and 6 pop-up events and exhibitions
- Supported 19 alumni Creative Enterprises that continue on as lease paying tenants
- Supported 50+ events/performances by Spaceworks and/or Spaceworks participants, many **free**
- Activated 21 underused spaces
- Inspired over 20 media features, including segments on King5 News and South Sound Talk



"I never would have dreamed that I was capable of writing a thorough business plan, including intimidating financial data! As an artist, running a business doesn't come naturally. Spaceworks is truly invested in helping small creative businesses succeed, and the rigorous training program gave me the specific tools to take my dreams to the next level. Not to mention, I now have a community of other creative businesses to network and troubleshoot with. I am forever grateful to the Spaceworks program and am proud to live and work in a city that values the arts and invests in our success."

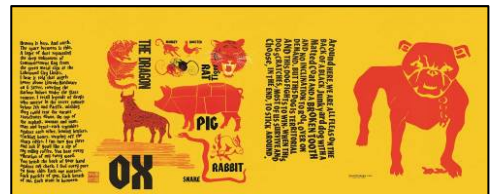
- Shay Ryan, kiddos & kin



Photos from top: Students from Whitman Elementary show off the sculptures they created in an Arts EnviroChallenger residency; photo provided by Arts Impact. A student works on an Arts EnviroChallenger water quality lesson; photo provided by Arts Impact. Willie and David Combs of The Tshirt Men Company, a Spaceworks creative enterprise business; photo provided by Spaceworks. April Sanders and Jennifer English of SPUN Clay Arts Studio & Gallery, a Spaceworks creative enterprise business; photo provided by Spaceworks. Kerry Williams of DubCity Studios, a Spaceworks creative enterprise business; photo provided by Spaceworks.

Tacoma Arts Month

- Opening Party
 - Celebrated 14th anniversary of Tacoma Arts Month
 - Collaboration with Spaceworks Tacoma, the historic Tacoma Armory, and 19 local artists and arts organizations
 - Curated experiences and built environment from scratch to showcase historic Tacoma Armory
 - Over 700 people in attendance at this **free** community event
- AMOCAT Arts Awards – *recognizing outstanding outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts*
 - Nominated by community; selected by Arts Commission
 - Arts Patron: University of Washington Tacoma
 - Community Outreach by an Organization: Tacoma Public Library
 - Community Outreach by an Individual: Connie K. Walle
- Community Events
 - 363 community-produced events held in October
 - 56 classes and workshops held in October
 - 78 visual art exhibits
- Tacoma Studio Tour – *free two-day event*
 - 57 artists at 35 studio locations covering Council Districts 1 - 5
 - An average of 124 visitors to each studio (approximately 75% were visitors the artists did not personally know)
 - Estimated \$41,000 in earnings from sales of work
- Communication and Sponsorship
 - Partnered with Pacific Lutheran University to design print and online materials
 - Improved capabilities of TacomaArtsMonth.com
 - TacomaArts blog focused on artists participating in the Tacoma Studio Tour and events happening throughout the month
 - Twice-weekly e-newsletters announced upcoming arts events
 - Secured sponsorships with ARCADE magazine, Click! Cable TV, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, KPLU, NWPR, Premier Media Group, Tacoma Weekly and Weekly Volcano



“Thank you for coordinating this tour that took us to places we had no clue existed and wouldn't have ever seen.”

- Sheila White

“I eagerly await the tour of studios each year! I loved the opportunity this year to do a project (for free!) at many of the studio spaces. I have done projects in years past when they were available and loved the process. There was a time when I was consistently creating, but daily living took over my focus. This year was particularly special in that I was inspired to unleash my inner artist (the projects really helped). I am now writing and getting back into creating art. Thank you for a wonderful experience!”

- Kelly Stave

Tacoma Murals Project

- Partnership with Neighborhood & Community Services and Public Works
- Developed and launched Traffic Box Wrap Project
 - 20 Tacoma artists selected through a competitive process
 - 20 unique wrap designs created
 - Selection of 50 box locations covering Council Districts 1 – 5
 - Wrap printing and installation started; will be complete spring 2016

Photos from top: Joel Myers and Voriece Miller perform at the Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party; photo property of City of Tacoma. The arts come to life under the roof of the historic Tacoma Armory during the Tacoma Arts Month opening party; photo property of City of Tacoma. Artist Randy Jones welcomes visitors into his East Tacoma studio; photo property of City of Tacoma. Traffic box wrap design by Lance Kagay. Section of traffic box wrap design by Debbi Commodore.

Pop-Up Art Putt!

- Free family-friendly 4-day community event & opening party
- Featured 9 artist-designed miniature golf holes
- Over 1,500 unique visitors participated with many repeat visitors throughout the weekend
- Local and regional media coverage
- Brought attention to the Prairie Line Trail through temporary public artwork, a strategy suggested in the Prairie Line Trail Public Art Plan
- Partnership with Tacoma Art Museum and University of Washington – Tacoma



“Pop-Up Art Putt was a huge success. 9 challenging holes created by local artists brought fun throughout downtown Tacoma.”

- Marty Campbell

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 series offers segments featuring diverse perspectives on a variety of creative disciplines
 - Researched, planned, and produced two episodes
 - Received bronze Telly Award for Metal-Urge piece in the category of TV Programs, Segments, or Promotional Pieces – Cultural Category



TacomaArt & Culture on Click! ON Demand

- Collaborated with Click! Cable TV to air film and music content created by or featuring funded organizations and artists, Spaceworks Tacoma participants, and the Arts Commission on Click! ON Demand
- 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 Cathy Nguyen as 2015-17 Tacoma Poet Laureate
- Cathy Nguyen hosted 19 Poet Laureate events, readings, workshops, and presentations in 2015, serving 700 attendees
- Expanded content on the Laureate Listening Project online audio anthology to capture the poetry of over 60 community members



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
 - \$3,400 grant from National Arts Program

Creative Space Development

- Partnership with The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and Artspace
- Conducted online survey process with 541 respondents
- Artspace produced a comprehensive feasibility study of artists' and creative individuals' space needs and preferences
- Completed live/work feasibility study for McKinley substation property
- Partnered with the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority and City of Tacoma's Housing Division to advance opportunities for creative space such as Station Artist Lofts and Valhalla Hall

GRANTS

JPMorgan Chase

- \$100,000 grant for Spaceworks Tacoma's strategic plan and tier 2 business development
- \$80,000 grant for Creative Space Tacoma arts market survey and working with local developers (grant submitted via The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation)

National Endowment for the Arts – Art Works

- \$25,000 grant for Spaceworks Tacoma's Artscapes program

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

- \$15,000 grant for Tacoma Arts Month

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

- Continuous updates to cityoftacoma.org/arts
- Maintained TacomaArtsMonth.com, TacomaArts blog, Tacoma Arts Commission Facebook group with over 2,450 followers, and two email listservs with over 1,300 members
- Developed arts content highlighting 27 Tacoma-area arts organizations, artists, and events for STQRY.com mobile app in conjunction with U.S. Open and marketing efforts of regional arts organizations

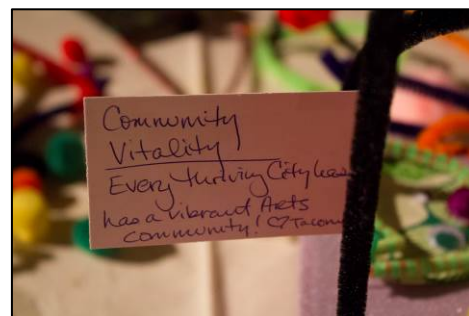
TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION

Volunteers

- 17 volunteers served in 2015: Scott Campbell, Rachel Cardwell, Joel Chang, Heather Conklin, Matthew Hudgins, Sarah Idstrom, Traci Kelly, Kareem Kandi, Halley Knigge, Donald Lacky, Ron Lagman, Dane Meyer, Mike Sweney, Wanda Thompson, Paul Throne, Katrina Toft, and Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
- Commission demographics: Council Districts 1- 4; ranging in age from 20's to 70's; expertise as practicing artists, arts professionals, educators, and arts supporters/patrons
- David Boe and Marty Campbell served as City Council liaisons
- 1,356 hours of volunteer time in 2015

5-Year Art Plan

- Worked with consultants 3 Square Blocks to begin development of 5-Year Art Plan for the City of Tacoma's Arts Program
- Facilitated focus groups with community members to shape direction of plan



Photos from top: Creative Space Tacoma branding created by Jessica Spring. Attendees at the Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party; photo property of City of Tacoma. Families create sculptures as part of the 5-Year Art Plan community input process at the Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party; photo property of City of Tacoma. "Every thriving city has a vibrant arts community!" feedback from 5-Year Art Plan community input process; photo provided by 3 Square Blocks. A panel of Tacoma Arts Commission members, content experts, and community members review applications; photo by Dane Gregory Meyer.