

Tacoma Arts Commission

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

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

Arts Anchor Fund

Operating support for Tacoma's largest arts institutions who 'anchor' the cultural community through exhibited stability and excellence.

- \$255,000 in funding distributed to 9 organizations for the 2015-16 biennium
- 1,646 events hosted in Tacoma in 2016; events ran a total of 14,300 times
- 493,860 people served within Tacoma in 2016
- 130,181 people admitted for free in 2016
- 222,777 Tacoma patrons and 272,685 non-Tacoma patrons served in 2016
- \$9.667 million in collateral spending by all patrons in 2016
- Organizations based in Council Districts 1 – 3
- Funded organizations: Grand Cinema, Hilltop Artists, Museum of Glass, Northwest Sinfonietta, Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Tacoma Opera, Tacoma Youth Symphony

Arts Projects

Supports a diversity of grassroots arts projects throughout the City.

- 2016 Arts Projects
 - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 20 organizations
 - 135 events hosted
 - 131,667 people served
 - 107,298 people admitted for free
 - 986 artists involved in producing projects
 - \$87,700 in total funding requests from 23 applicants
 - Funded organizations: Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Assemblage Theater, Barefoot Collective, Centro Latino, Children's Museum of Tacoma, Feast Arts Center, Fort Nisqually Foundation, Foss Waterway Seaport, Hilltop Business Association, King's Bookstore, Northwest Repertory Singers, Old Town Business and Professional Association, Puget Sound Poetry Connection, Second City Chamber Series, Sister Cities Council of Tacoma/Pierce County, Sixth Avenue Business District, Tacoma Concert Band, Tacoma Little Theatre, Washington State Historical Society, Write253
- 2017 Arts Projects
 - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 19 organizations
 - \$101,700 in total funding requests from 28 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
 - 41 events hosted
 - 22,090 people served; all for free
 - Artists based in Council Districts 1, 2, 3, & 5
 - \$80,000 in total funding requests from 32 applicants
 - Funded artists: Saign Charlestein, Jennifer Chushcoff, Matthew Coté, Kristin Giordano, Michael Haeflinger, Whitney Henry-Lester, Christopher Paul Jordan, Jeremy Mangan, Janet Marcavage, Tim Norris, Chandler O'Leary, Isaac Olsen, Nichole Rathburn, Holly Senn, Emilie Shimkus, Gregory Youtz
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“This exploration would not have been possible without Arts Projects funding from the Arts Commission. I believe the program is essential to the growth and development of the arts in Tacoma as it encourages innovation, risk-taking and ideally brings new people into Tacoma’s arts community.” – David Domkoski, Assemblage Theater, Arts Projects funding recipient

“Thank you again for the incredible opportunity to grow as an artist and as a human being.” – Jennifer Chushcoff, TAIP funding recipient

“Thank YOU! Encouragement like this for us artists/fools makes me so happy to have landed (and want to stay) in Tacoma. It’s a big deal.” – Whitney Henry-Lester, TAIP funding recipient

PUBLIC ART

Municipal Art Program

- Lincoln District Revitalization
 - Public Art - Horatio Hung-Yan Law. Extensive community engagement and design work for integrated and permanent artworks
 - Design for Construction Mitigation – Chandler O’Leary. Designed community-responsive pieces to help mitigate construction impacts, including temporary banners and big belly wraps
 - Creative Community Engagement Grants – Selection of 11 imaginative community-based projects that support economic development, neighborhood identity, and community cohesion. Examples of projects include: Latino cultural festival, films of businesses, traffic intersection mural, temporary art installations, film festival, and community sing-along
- Prairie Line Trail
 - Spur – Susan Zoccola. Continued design work for the 15th Street Overpass. Partnership with Foss Waterway Development Authority
 - Historic Interpretation – Matthew Dockery; Ryan Feddersen; Esteban Camacho Steffensen & Jessilyn Brinkerhoff; Rotator. Selection of 4 artists/teams to create new artworks as part of a State Heritage Grant. Work began to resite Hai Ying Wu’s *Shipment to China*, also as part of the State Heritage Grant
- Water Flume Line Trail /Oak Tree Park – Clark Wiegman. Presentation and design proposal for public artwork along the trail and park. Collaboration with Metro Parks Tacoma
- South Tacoma Way – Sheila Klein. Presentation and final design for artwork for the South Tacoma Business District. Funded by State Farm and Innovative Grants
- People’s Community Center – Christopher Paul Jordan and 10 HUE Collaborative artists. Development and implementation of a mural training program for artists of color. Design and implementation of a community-responsive outdoor mural. Planning for two interior projects: portable artworks purchase and audio/visual history element
- Public Art Maintenance
 - Chihuly Bridge of Glass - Cleaning of *Crystal Towers*
 - Completion of cleaning and sealing 15 bronze artworks
 - Cleaning of Jill Anholt’s *Projecting Drop*

Public Art Consulting

- Tacoma Gateway (on contract with Sound Transit) – Sean Orlando and David Shulman. Final design 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. Design proposal for a large-scale, 2D mural on porcelain enamel
- Bay Terrace Phase II (on contract with Tacoma Housing Authority) – Christopher Paul Jordan and Kenji Stoll. Final design 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 management and adoption of multi-year public art plan
- Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues. Research and design development for 2 large-scale interior installations at the new aquarium
- Waterfront Phase I (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Adam Kuby. Art brief and final design for a large scale signature piece completed for the park joining Point Ruston and Point Defiance

- Eastside Community Center – Christopher Paul Jordan and Kenji Stoll. Artist selection for community engagement and art brief for the new community center
- E.T. Memorial (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Artist selection initiated for artist-designed memorial sculpture
- Gig Harbor Fred Meyer (on contract with Kroger) – Artist selection and proposals for large-scale interior mural

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Spaceworks Tacoma

- Partnership with Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Celebrated 6 years of activating the streetscape and revitalizing neighborhoods
- Provided training and technical assistance to over 60 Creative Enterprises
- Helped launch 11 creative businesses into community storefronts and vacant spaces
- Provided 7 \$500 microgrants to alumni creative enterprises
- Presented 28 art installations and 4 pop-up events and exhibitions
- Promoted 40 alumni Creative Enterprises that continue on as lease paying tenants
- Supported 50+ events/performances by Spaceworks and/or Spaceworks participants, many free
- Launched the Spaceworks Gallery in the heart of downtown
- Activated 21 underused spaces
- Inspired over 20 media features, including pieces by South Sound Magazine and South Sound Talk
- Doubled staff to 4 FTE

“[They] helped me understand all the components it takes to create a business. It was well organized, had great speakers, and step by step instructions. They set me up with mentors that helped direct me when I was at crossroads. It was also great being in a class with other small business owners, to get their perspectives.” - Monique Smith of Lettuce 253, Creative Enterprise participant

“Spaceworks provided an amazing launchpad for my artistic career and I really appreciate the opportunities provided to me via Spaceworks.” - Ian Campbell, Artscapes participant

“Spaceworks is bridging the gap between artist and business, with the community's best interest at heart. Spaceworks provides tools for success, resources and most importantly spaces to operate. It is the future of the city.” - Dion Thomas, Creative Enterprise participant

Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 Study

This data, collected every 5 years, is a valuable tool to assist City leaders in assessing the economic impact that non-profit arts and culture organizations have on Tacoma

- Collaborated with Americans for the Arts to conduct a comprehensive study of our local nonprofit arts industry
- Volunteers collected over 1140 audience surveys and 63 organization surveys
- Study results will be released in June 2017

Tacoma Arts Month

- Opening Party
 - Celebrated 15th anniversary of Tacoma Arts Month
 - Collaboration with Spaceworks Tacoma, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, and 20 local artists and arts organizations
 - Over 500 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: Metro Parks Tacoma
 - Community Outreach by an Organization: Tacoma Youth Symphony Association
 - Community Outreach by an Individual: Christopher Paul Jordan
- Community Events
 - 439 community-produced events
 - 89 classes and workshops
 - 85 visual art exhibits
- Tacoma Studio Tour – *free two-day event*

- 57 artists at 34 studio locations covering Council Districts 1 - 4
 - An average of 132 visitors to each studio
 - Estimated \$50,000 in earnings from sales of work
 - Communication and Sponsorship
 - Partnered with the Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County to produce banner series for downtown Tacoma
 - Leveraged promotional reach with Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County and Market the Arts Task Force
 - Held two promotional incentive challenges
 - Partnered with University of Puget Sound to create an Android App
 - Partnered with Pacific Lutheran University to design online and print materials
 - 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, Crosscut, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, KNKX, NWPR, ParentMap, Sounds Fun Mom, South Sound Magazine, Tacoma Weekly and Weekly Volcano
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“Thanks for organizing an inspiring tour. I learned a lot about the diversity of talent and the impressive growth of the arts in Tacoma in one short day!” – Nancy Bourne Haley, Studio Tour attendee

“The studio tour was such a great experience. Thank you for putting it together! It was inspiring to see what so many artists are doing right here in our city.” - Kami Huynh, Studio Tour attendee

Arts EnviroChallenger

Partnership with Environmental Services and Arts Impact to provide 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 73 classrooms (approximately 1,750 students) between January and June 2016
- Special clean water exhibit created for the Foss Waterway Seaport
- Residencies taught by 3 professional teaching artists and met state learning standards for visual arts and science
- Program administered by Arts Impact, a program of Puget Sound Educational Service District

Tacoma Murals Project

- Five new outdoor murals created with community collaboration in Council Districts 1, 2, 3 & 5
 - Hilltop – 1401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; Mindy Barker (lead), Jesse Peterson (assistant)
 - Larchmont – S. 84th & Bell Street; Chelsea O'Sullivan and Janice Warren (leads), Mary Elizabeth Smith and Curtis Ashby (assistants)
 - West End - 7104 6th Avenue; Bob Henry
 - Bryant Neighborhood - 717 S. Grant Avenue; Angela Larsen
 - Sixth Avenue - 2220 6th Avenue; Chris Sharp (to be completed in 2017)
- Installed 44 traffic box wraps covering Council Districts 1 – 5
- Partnership with Neighborhood & Community Services and Public Works

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 with 14 segments

Thank you for a great series! I used all six episodes in my Humanities 101 class... Truth be told, my students and I felt a more powerful kinship to our T-Town by quarter's end, and they raved about the many arts and artists—several of whom were introduced to them in the series.” - M. Chen-Johnson, Tacoma Community College

ETSY Maker City

- Tacoma selected as just 1 of 13 cities in North America to be named a 2016 ETSY Maker City

- Amy McBride and two Tacoma-based maker businesses attended the Etsy Maker Summit in NY
- Hosted Mayor's Monday Mixer event focused on maker community

Tacoma Poet Laureate

- 2015-17 Tacoma Poet Laureate Cathy Nguyen hosted 43 readings, workshops, and presentations in 2016, serving 6,341 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

- 135 pieces of visual art, created by 83 artists, displayed at the Tacoma Municipal Building and Tacoma Public Utilities
- \$3,400 grant from National Arts Program

Creative Space Development

- Hosted Mayor's Monday Mixer focused on Creative Space
- Provided support to Station Artists' Lofts (14 live/work-work/live units on McKinley). Project broke ground in January 2017
- Provided support to Alma Mater (former Carpenter's Union Hall) to create an artist-driven work, performance, and gathering space. Opening in fall 2017

GRANTS

JPMorgan Chase

- \$145,000 grant for Spaceworks Tacoma's strategic plan and tier 2 business development

National Endowment for the Arts – Our Town

- \$50,000 grant to support a Culture and Transportation Plan for the Theater District in partnership with Pierce Transit

State Farm

- \$104,000 to support a gateway sculpture on South Tacoma Way

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

- \$15,000 grant for Tacoma Arts Month

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

- Maintained cityoftacoma.org/arts, tacomaartsmoonth.com, TacomaArts blog, Tacoma Arts Commission Facebook group with almost 3,200 followers, and two email listservs with over 1,300 members
- Select presentations representing Tacoma's Arts & Culture
 - Arts and Community Engagement Strategies OR/WA American Planning Association Regional Conference; Portland, OR
 - Public Art: Planting Seeds/Starting Fires with Roberto Calvano and Eroyn Franklin, moderated by Professor Elise Richman; University of Puget Sound

TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION

5-Year Art Plan

- Finalization and adoption by City Council of ArtFull Tacoma, a 5-year strategic plan for the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality
- Informed by community member focus groups
- Developed by 3 Square Blocks

Volunteers

- 15 volunteers served in 2016: Scott Campbell, Rachel Cardwell, Joel Chang, Heather Conklin, Johnaye Kendrick, Kareem Kandi, Traci Kelly, Halley Knigge, Donald Lacky, 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

- Marty Campbell and Keith Blocker served as City Council liaisons
- 1,385 hours of volunteer service