

Front cover:

## Tacoma Arts Commission 2017 Year in Review

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality  
*Tacoma Arts Commission logo*

Page 2:

Arts, culture, and creativity are essential keys to Tacoma’s unique and distinctive identity. The Tacoma Arts Commission and the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality are proud to nurture our city’s creative eco-system, providing support to our artists and organizations as well as opportunities for all of our residents and visitors to access and participate in the arts.

We encourage the development of the local arts community through the administration of arts and cultural funding programs, managing and providing stewardship for the City’s public art collection, and producing a variety of public programs and professional development opportunities that enhance and contribute to Tacoma’s local economy. In addition, the volunteer members of the Tacoma Arts Commission are advocates for the arts, providing policy direction on matters of arts and culture within the City of Tacoma.

We work collaboratively with strong partners and allies such as the Metropolitan Parks District of Tacoma, the Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County, and the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce to build the creative economy by leveraging resources and talent to further benefit our community in innovative and dynamic ways.

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

Page 3 & 4:

*Insert the Summary Report document*

Page 5 and on:

### 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 10 organizations for the 2017-18 biennium
- 1,772 events hosted in Tacoma in 2017; events ran a total of 15,459 times
- 502,841 people served within Tacoma in 2017
- 130,036 people admitted for free in 2017
- 237,293 Tacoma patrons and 258,470 non-Tacoma patrons served in 2017
- \$12.58 million in collateral spending by all patrons in 2017
- Organizations based in Council Districts 1 – 3
- Funded organizations: Grand Cinema, Hilltop Artists, Museum of Glass, Northwest Sinfonietta, Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Tacoma Opera, Tacoma Youth Symphony

Infographic:

Collateral spending by patrons

|                         |                        |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$12.58 million in 2017 | \$9.67 million in 2016 | \$9.37 million in 2015 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

*Highlight this quote:*

“This funding makes a huge difference to our programming and we truly value having the opportunity to share the achievements and creativity of our youth with the wider Tacoma community.” - Louise Cooper, Hilltop Artists, Arts Anchor Fund recipient

## **Arts Projects**

Supports a diversity of grassroots arts projects throughout the city

- 2017 Arts Projects
  - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 19 organizations
  - 123 events hosted
  - 123,020 people served
  - 101,962 people admitted for free
  - 1,237 artists involved in producing projects
  - \$101,700 in total funding requests from 28 applicants
  - Funded organizations: Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Barefoot Collective, Centro Latino, Children's Museum of Tacoma, Old Town Business & Professional Assoc., Destiny City Film Festival, Eastside Neighborhood Advisory Council of Tacoma, Fort Nisqually Foundation, Foss Waterway Seaport, Hilltop Business Association, King's Bookstore, Morgan Family YMCA, Northwest Repertory Singers, Puget Sound Poetry Connection, Salishan Association, Tacoma Concert Band, Toy Boat Theatre, Washington State Historical Society, Write253
- 2018 Arts Projects
  - \$50,000 in funding distributed to 19 organizations
  - \$116,500 in total funding requests from 28 applicants

*Infographic:*

*Pie chart showing 83% free admission 17% ticketed admission. Labeled “Admission to 2017 Arts Projects events”*

*Highlight this quote:*

“Thank you so much! We are thrilled to have the Tacoma Arts Commission’s support for our expanding arts integrated cultural immersion program on Tacoma’s Eastside.” – Mariesa Bus, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Arts Projects funding recipient

## **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

- \$45,000 in funding distributed to 18 individual artists for the 2017-18 biennium
- \$107,500 in total funding requests from 43 applicants
- Artists based in Council Districts 1 – 5
- Funded artists: Anida Yoeu Ali, Travis Barker, Priscilla Dobler, Daniel Garcia, Antonio Gomez, Mark Hoppmann, Maria Jost, Anne Lyman, Kevin Miller, Elise Richman, Mauricio Robalino, Jessica Spring, Nick Stokes, Kenji Stoll, Masahiro Sugano, Qin Tan, Collin Veenstra, Ben Wildenhaus

*Highlight this quote:*

“We are so grateful to be awarded this opportunity to continue our work and find our footing in this exciting arts community. We have worked in many places around the world but Tacoma has an inspiring and contagious energy. Thank you and we can't wait to keep making great art!” - Studio Revolt (Anida Yoeu Ali + Masahiro Sugano), TAIP funding recipients

## PUBLIC ART

Infographic:

Number of permanent public pieces in process

|            |            |            |           |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 28 in 2017 | 20 in 2016 | 12 in 2015 | 8 in 2014 |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|

### Municipal Art Program

- Lincoln District Revitalization
  - Gateway and Streetscape - Horatio Hung-Yan Law. Completed design work for integrated and permanent artworks
  - Welcome Signs – Chandler O’Leary. Designed permanent, community-responsive welcome signs for the streetscape
  - Creative Community Engagement Grants – Completed 5 of 10 imaginative community-based projects that support economic development, neighborhood identity, and community cohesion. Completed projects to date include: Latinx cultural festival, traffic intersection mural, temporary video installation representing the district, film festival, community sing-along, screen-printed reusable bags with Lincoln design
- Prairie Line Trail
  - Spur – Susan Zoccola. Continued design work for the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Overpass. Partnership with Foss Waterway Development Authority
  - Historic Interpretation – Matthew Dockrey; Ryan Feddersen; Esteban Camacho Steffensen & Jessilyn Brinkerhoff; Rotator. Installed 2 artworks and completed design for 2 artworks as part of a State Heritage Grant. Restored and resited Hai Ying Wu’s *Shipment to China*, also as part of the State Heritage Grant
- Water Flume Line Trail /Oak Tree Park – Clark Wiegman. Completed design and started fabrication for public artwork along the trail and park. Related project with Mt. Tacoma High School received an Innovative Grant. Collaboration with Metro Parks Tacoma
- South Tacoma Way – Sheila Klein. Completed design and fabricated artwork for the South Tacoma Business District. Funded by State Farm and Innovative Grants
- People’s Community Center
  - Outdoor mural – Christopher Paul Jordan with Whitney Brady, Desmond Burnett, Byron Ellison, Jorge Garcia, Tiffany Hammonds, Soroa Lear, Denis Maina, Matamatononofo Porter, Saiyare Refaei, Byron White. Completion of a community-responsive outdoor mural created as part of a mural training program for artists of color
  - Portable Works –Adika Bell, Gerald Bigelow, Jasmine Brown, Humbl, Kate Cendejas, Tiffany Hammonds, JW Harrington, Saiyare Refaei, Sarah Takahashi, Charles Taylor, Dion Thomas, LaQuita Thurman, Grace A. Washington, Byron White. Selection, purchase, and installation of 19 pieces of original artwork from Tacoma artists
  - History Project – Whitney Brady and Tiffany Hammonds. Creation and installation of *Roots of the Hill*, an interactive audio and visual artwork exploring the history of Hilltop. Contains audio recordings of 21 community members
- Artist in Residence – Hired Roni Chelben and Susan Robb as Artists in Residence, focusing on issues related to homelessness. Partnership with City’s Neighborhood and Community Services Department
- Public Art Maintenance
  - Chihuly Bridge of Glass – Cleaned *Crystal Towers*
  - Completed condition review of all outdoor artworks in the Tacoma Municipal Collection
  - Cleaned and repaired projector for Jill Anholt’s *Projecting Drop*
  - Cleaned and restored Yuki Nakamura’s *TransFORM*
  - Cleaned, restored, and re-dedicated Justin Hahn’s *Significant Figures in the Development of Polymers*
  - Deaccession and removal of Betz Bernhard’s *Tidal Pool*

### Public Art Consulting

- Metro Parks Tacoma Art Plan (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Ongoing management of Public Art Program
- Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma)
  - Aquarium Ramps – Gordon Huether. Designed and started fabrication for *Shoal* and *Shimmer*, two large-scale interior installations at the new aquarium

- Glass Jellyfish – Kait Rhoads. Designed and started fabrication for glass jellyfish installation at the new aquarium
- Mural – Maria Jost. Designed mural for educational space in the new aquarium
- Waterfront Phase I (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Adam Kuby. Worked with architects to integrate artful design elements into the park. Installed *Alluvion*, large scale signature piece for the new park located between Ruston Way and Point Defiance
- Eastside Community Center (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma)
  - Art Brief & Community Engagement – Christopher Paul Jordan and Kenji Stoll. Completed community engagement and Art Brief for the new community center. Began implementing recommendations of the Art Brief
  - Portable Works Purchase – Darishma Alphonse, Adika Bell, Jasmine Brown, Kate Cendejas Thun, Anthony Duenas, Lisa Fruichantie, Lourdes Jackson, Gwen Jones, Denis Maina, Gerardo Peña, Shaun Peterson, Kenya Shakoor, Grace A. Washington. Held workshop and purchased artworks from artists with a connection to the Eastside for the new community center, as recommended by the Art Brief
  - Outdoor Sculpture – Artist selection initiated for outdoor sculpture at the entrance to the new community center, as recommended by the Art Brief
- E.T. Memorial (on contract with Metro Parks Tacoma) – Matthew Gray Palmer. Installed artist-designed memorial sculpture at entrance to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
- Valhalla Hall (on contract with Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority)
  - Gate – Chris Spadafore. Selection, design, and creation of decorative gate
  - Mural – Matamatononofo Porter. Selection and design of outdoor mural
- Bay Terrace Phase II (on contract with Tacoma Housing Authority) – Christopher Paul Jordan and Kenji Stoll. Installation of *Homecourt*, a large-scale design-integrated artwork, informed by community engagement with Bay Terrace residents
- Sound Transit Trestle (on contract with Sound Transit) – Jeremy Mangan. Installed a large-scale, 2D mural on porcelain enamel
- LINK Extension (on contract with Sound Transit) – Kenji Stoll. Selection of lead artist and initial research to create designs for 7 new LINK light rail stations
- 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. 26<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Avenue
- Gig Harbor Fred Meyer (on contract with Kroger) – Mindy Barker. Created and installed large-scale interior mural

## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

### Spaceworks Tacoma

- Partnership with Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
- Celebrated 7 years of activating the streetscape and revitalizing neighborhoods
- Provided training and technical assistance to over 81 Creative Enterprises
- Helped launch 12 creative businesses into community storefronts and vacant spaces
- Provided \$500 microgrants to 10 Creative Enterprise alumni
- Commissioned artists to create 28 temporary streetside displays (5 murals, 23 installations)
- Promoted 51 alumni Creative Enterprises that continue on as lease paying tenants
- Supported 50+ events/performances by Spaceworks and/or Spaceworks participants, many free
- Hosted 6 exhibits at the 950 Gallery in the heart of downtown, which brought in 2,644 visitors, garnered 12 feature articles, and included 14 special events with performers, speakers, and pop-up markets
- Activated 19 underused spaces
- Inspired over 50 media mentions, including pieces by in NBC news, South Sound magazine, and King 5
- Received \$20,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts
- Partnered with Pierce Transit, City of Tacoma, and Broadway Center for the Performing Arts on the TRANSFORM project, activating the Theater District with 25 Art Walk stops and 400 attendees

*Infographic:*

Training and technical assistance provided to Creative Enterprises

|            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 81 in 2017 | 60 in 2016 | 30 in 2015 |
|------------|------------|------------|

*Highlight this quote:*

“Working solo as a business owner I don't often have the opportunity to get feedback about the business or bounce ideas off of others. Working with coaches benefits the business as well as myself because of how closely we work together. I can approach them with a particular area of concern and they can help me work through it. I'm able to sit down with an issue and get constructive and honest feedback. I'm able to benefit from the expertise of the coaches as we work together. They also are able to introduce ideas, tools and skills that I'm clueless about and help me understand them and apply them to my business.” - Liz van Dyke, Stocklist, 2017 Tier III Cohort

### **Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 Study**

Collaborated with Americans for the Arts to conduct a comprehensive study of Tacoma's nonprofit arts and culture industry. 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

- Tacoma's nonprofit arts and culture industry generates:
  - \$137.2 million in economic activity every year
    - \$74.6 million in spending by organizations
    - \$62.6 million in event-related spending by audiences (not including cost of event admission)
  - 3,656 full-time equivalent jobs
  - \$86.04 million in resident household income
  - \$5.98 million in local revenue
  - \$7.98 million in state revenue
- Of Tacoma's 2,703,154 nonprofit arts and culture audience members in 2015:
  - 72.6% resided within Pierce County
    - Spent an average of \$20.23 per person on event-related purchases (excluding admission)
    - Event-related expenditures totaled \$39,701,173
  - 27.4% resided outside Pierce County
    - Spent an average of \$30.87 per person on event-related purchases (excluding admission)
    - Event-related expenditures totaled \$22,864,298
- Based on the responses of 63 arts and culture organizations and 1,124 audience surveys

### **Tacoma Arts Month**

- Opening Party
  - Celebrated 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tacoma Arts Month
  - Collaboration with Spaceworks Tacoma, Tacoma Musical Playhouse, and 17 local artists and arts organizations
  - 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 Tacoma Arts Commission
  - Arts Patron: Tacoma Housing Authority
  - Community Outreach by an Organization: Monkeyshines
  - Community Outreach by an Individual: Michael Haeflinger
- Community Events
  - 509 community-produced events
  - 76 classes and workshops
  - 79 visual art exhibits
- Tacoma Studio Tour – free two-day event
  - 70 artists at 41 studio locations covering Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 5
  - Average of 166 visitors to each studio
  - Estimated \$36,000 in earnings from sales of work
- Communication and Sponsorship
  - Partnered with the Arts & Culture Coalition of Pierce County and BIA to hang banners in 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 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, Click! Cable TV, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, KNKX, NWPR, ParentMap, Sounds Fun Mom, South Sound Magazine, Tacoma Weekly and Weekly Volcano

*Highlight this quote:*

“I loved the Tacoma Studio Tour! It was absolutely inspiring to see artists pursuing what they love to do, all over the Tacoma area.” - LaVaughn Richards

### **Tacoma Murals Project**

- Four new outdoor murals created with community collaboration in Council District 3
  - Water Flume Line Trail 1 – South Tacoma Way & Tacoma Avenue; Tiffany Hammonds
  - Water Flume Line Trail 2 – South Tacoma Way & Tacoma Avenue; Curtis Ashby
  - Water Flume Line Trail 3 – South Tacoma Way & Yakima Avenue; Anthony Duenas
  - Sixth Avenue - 2220 6th Avenue; Chris Sharp (lead), Diana Leigh Surma (assistant)
- Re-installed 14 traffic box wraps
- 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 2 episodes with 14 segments

### **Tacoma Poet Laureate**

- Conducted a call to artist and selected Kellie Richardson as the 2017-2019 Tacoma Poet Laureate
- Kellie Richardson hosted or participated in 26 Poet Laureate events, readings, workshops, and presentations in 2017, serving 2,824 attendees.
- 2015-17 Tacoma Poet Laureate Cathy Nguyen hosted 15 readings, workshops, and presentations in 2017, serving 361 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 morale

- 110 pieces of visual art created by 69 artists displayed at the Tacoma Municipal Building and Tacoma Public Utilities
- \$4,250 grant from National Arts Program

### **Creative Space Development**

- Provided support to McKinley Artists’ Lofts (14 live/work-work/live units on McKinley)
- Provided support to Alma Mater to create an artist-driven work, performance, and gathering space

## **CITY-OWNED ARTS VENUES**

### **Broadway Center for the Performing Arts**

- City contracted with BCPA to manage three historic City-owned facilities
  - Pantages Theater (built 1918, restored 1983)
  - Rialto Theater (built 1918, restored 1991)
  - Theatre on the Square (built 1993)
- Home to 7 of Tacoma’s Resident Arts Organizations
- Presents diverse array of locally-produced and Broadway productions
- Facilitates one of the largest arts education programs in the state
- Serves 250,000+ visitors annually

## **GRANTS**

### **National Endowment for the Arts - Artworks**

- \$40,000 to support Public Art/Public Action, a public art and community engagement training for artists focusing on the Tacoma Mall Subarea. Secured in 2017 for programming happening in 2018

### **National Endowment for the Arts – Our Town**

- \$50,000 to support a Culture & Transportation Plan for the Theater District in partnership with Pierce Transit and Broadway Center for the Performing Arts. Secured in 2016 for work happening through 2018

### **State Farm**

- \$104,000 to support a gateway sculpture on South Tacoma Way. Secured in 2016 for work happening through 2018

### **Greater Tacoma Community Foundation**

- \$5,000 grant for Tacoma Arts Month. Secured in 2017 for event happening in 2017

## **OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS**

- Maintained [cityoftacoma.org/arts](http://cityoftacoma.org/arts), [tacomaartsmoonth.com](http://tacomaartsmoonth.com), TacomaArts blog, Tacoma Arts Commission Facebook group with 3,775 followers, and 2 email listservs with over 1,350 members
- Select presentations representing Tacoma's arts & culture:
  - *Creating Meaningful Arts Programs Designed to Engage the Community*, National Recreation and Parks Association conference; New Orleans, LA. Selected for livestream
  - *Creative Economy and the West: Putting Creative Economy Data to Work*, Arts Northwest/NW Booking Conference; Tacoma, WA
  - *Building Capacity: Getting from Clinical to Community*, Creative Forces Summit, NEA, Arts WA, and Department of Defense; Tacoma, WA
  - ArtTable; Seattle, WA
  - *Arts and Economic Prosperity Study*, Tacoma Pierce County Chamber Luncheon and South Sound Together; Tacoma, WA

## **TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION**

### **Volunteer Commission Members**

- Tacoma Arts Commissioners: Mike Sweney, Chair; Rachel Cardwell, Vice Chair; Scott Campbell; Heather Conklin; Quincy Henry; Kareem Kandi; Traci Kelly; Johnaye Kendrick; Halley Knigge; Michael Kula; Donald Lacky; Liesl Santkuyl; Wanda Thompson; Paul Throne; Lynn Wilmot-Stenehjem
- City Council liaisons: Marty Campbell and Keith Blocker
- Commission demographics: Council Districts 1- 4; ranging in age from 30's to 70's; expertise as practicing artists, arts professionals, educators, and arts supporters/patrons
- 1,369 hours of volunteer service