

2021: REIMAGINING OUR FUTURE

The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality continues to be immensely grateful to the artists, creatives, cultural organizations, and community groups for showing up in a multitude of ways this past year to care for the evolving needs of our community. Artistic and cultural practices give voice to our shared humanity, offering reflection, celebration, and expression that individually and collectively contribute to our resiliency and healing as a community. From public art projects that reflect our shared stories to programs and events that connect us in meaningful ways, Tacoma is reimagining its future.

Tacoma's cultural sector embodies grit and innovation, and the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality is proud to support this vital work in our community. The following report illustrates the far-reaching impacts the City's investments in the cultural sector have on our community.

2021 Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality Staff

Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist
Clarissa Gines, Tacoma Creates Coordinator
Lisa Jaret, Tacoma Creates Program Manager
Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

2021 Tacoma City Council Members

Mayor Victoria Woodards
Council Member John Hines (District 1)
Council Member Robert Thoms (District 2)
Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker (District 3)
Council Member Catherine Ushka (District 4)
Council Member Chris Beale (District 5)
Council Member Lillian Hunter (At-Large)
Council Member Conor McCarthy (At-Large)
Council Member Kristina Walker (At-Large)



Collaborative art project displayed at Alma as part of Pierce County AIDS Foundation's "Panic in the Pandemics" program. Photo courtesy of Pierce County AIDS Foundation.

"As we are returning to something approaching normal, it has become evident how vital community and connection are to physical and mental well-being. While we are getting back to work, school and smaller gatherings, we are longing for the larger community conversations that our arts and cultural organizations provide. I recognize, now more than ever, the way those performances, exhibitions, and events help me feel connected, engaged and cared for.

This is the value of art in Tacoma – it reminds us what makes life more beautiful, challenging, complicated, and in the end, worth living for. Our cultural community has done so much in the past year, and they continue to bring us back together and support a healthy, happy and fulfilled City of Destiny."

John Hines, Tacoma City Council Member

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəl txʷəl tiit ʔa čəl ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsəlʔilils gʷəl ʔutxʷəlšucidəbs həlgʷəʔ.

We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.

OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURAL VITALITY 2021 OVERVIEW

This overview covers Arts program year January 1 – December 31, 2021.

ARTS FUNDING

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS

\$114,000
funded to **27**
organizations and
groups



140 programs and
events produced



21,747 participants
at in-person
events



41,673 views of
online programs



99% of all
programs and
events were free



\$72,000 funded to
24 artists for the
2021-22 biennium

12 programs and
events produced

192 participants at
in-person events

7,392 views of
online programs

100% of all
programs and
events were free

TACOMA ARTISTS INITIATIVE PROGRAM

PUBLIC ART

2

2 permanent public
art projects for City of
Tacoma

2

2 community
engagement projects

6

6 permanent public
art projects managed
for outside agencies

1

1 public art training
program

3

3 temporary training
projects

4

4 murals

3

3 design projects

1

1 major artwork
repaired

1

1 major artwork
removed

ARTS PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



TACOMA ARTS MONTH

- Celebrated 20th anniversary
- Close to 90 artists participated and 2,284 people attended Arts at the Armory
- 67 community-produced events

5

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5 free workshops hosted

72

ARTISTS HIRED

Paid opportunities for 72 artists and creatives



artTown TV SHOW

- Produced 1 re-mixed episode
- Rebooted show production



TACOMA POET LAUREATE

- 46 programs
- 6,569 people served
- Hosted Pass the Torch event with 1,069 viewers

TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION

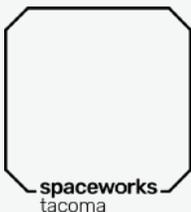


15 volunteer arts advocates



725 hours of volunteer service

SPACEWORKS TACOMA



- 132 businesses and 141 participants directly served
- 16 new businesses created
- 18 new murals created
- \$111,000 investment attracted through Kiva microloans

Find out more about these programs and services at cityoftacoma.org/arts

TACOMA CREATES

This overview covers Tacoma Creates program year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

FUNDING



- \$4,700,000 funded to 57 cultural organizations
- 412 total programs and events
- 82,355 participants at in-person events
- 497,817 views of online programs
- 97% of all programs were either free or had free or reduced-price ticket options

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS



- 32 organizations provided youth education programs
- 144 youth education programs offered
- 19,000 in-person participants
- 138,000 online participants
- 77% participated for free
- 20% participated on a sliding scale or through scholarships

PARTNERSHIPS



- 21 organizations provided education programs in partnership with TPS
- \$442,000 in Tacoma Creates funds used by organizations to support TPS student learning



- 16 organizations presented programming in partnership with TPL
- 45 virtual events presented

TACOMA CREATES ADVISORY BOARD



12 community volunteers



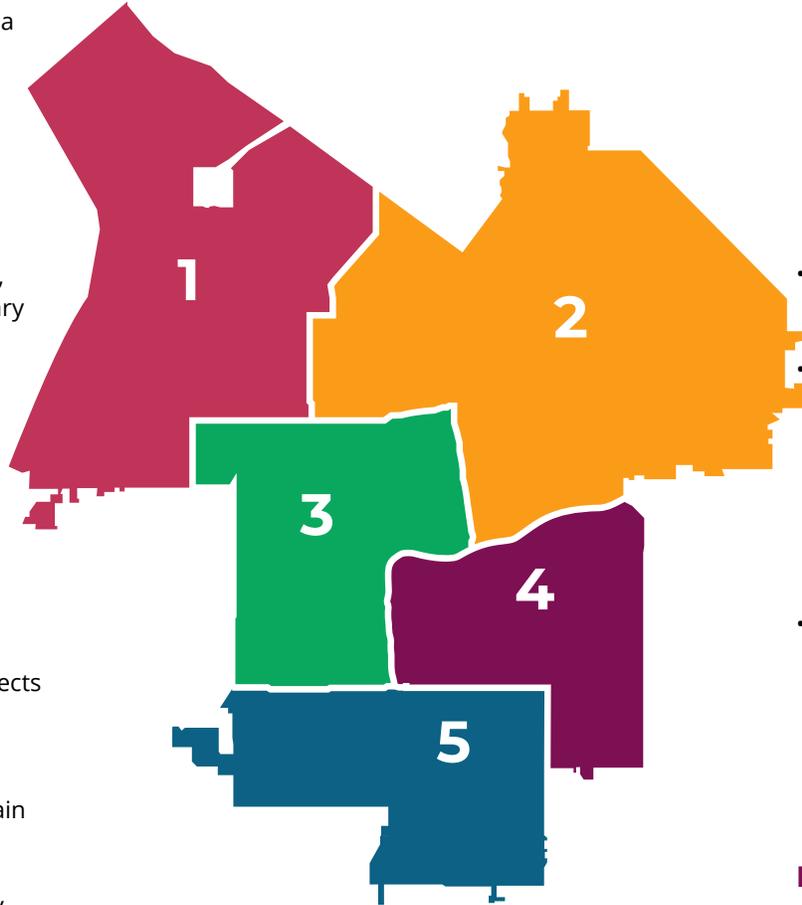
348 hours of volunteer service

Read the full 2020-2021 Tacoma Creates Annual Report at tacomacreates.org

IMPACT BY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

District 1

- Arts Funding – 22 Arts Projects programs, 4 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 1 permanent artwork for Zoo
- Arts Programming - Tacoma Arts Month, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown
- Tacoma Creates Funding – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, virtual Expanded Learning Opportunity programming, virtual Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks - Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs



District 3

- Arts Funding – 25 Arts Projects programs, 7 TAIP artists
- Public Art – Series of 7 permanent artworks for LINK extension, 1 stormdrain mural, 1 mural restored, 2 temporary installations for PARC training, 2 temporary engagement projects for Tacoma Mall neighborhood
- Arts Programming - Tacoma Arts Month, Arts at the Armory, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown
- Tacoma Creates Funding – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, virtual Expanded Learning Opportunity programming, virtual Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs, Black Business Accelerator, Sound Transit murals

District 5

- Arts Funding – 22 Arts Projects programs, 3 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 1 site-integrated project for East 64th Street, 3 temporary installations for PARC training
- Arts Programming – Tacoma Arts Month, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown
- Tacoma Creates Funding – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, virtual Expanded Learning Opportunity programming, virtual Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs

District 2

- Arts Funding – 29 Arts Projects programs, 4 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 1 permanent artwork along Ruston Way, 1 permanent artwork for Pierce Transit, 1 permanent artwork for Brown's Point Playfield, 2 temporary installations for PARC training, 2 murals through Spaceworks, 1 mural for Black Lives Matter, 5 murals repaired, 1 major artwork restored, 1 major artwork removed
- Arts Programming - Tacoma Arts Month, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown
- Tacoma Creates Funding – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, virtual Expanded Learning Opportunity programming, virtual Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs, 1120 Downtown coworking space, Star Bazaar, rapid murals, window and video installations

District 4

- Arts Funding – 24 Arts Projects programs, 6 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 2 permanent artworks for Eastside Community Center, 1 temporary installation for PARC training, 1 stormdrain mural, 3 murals restored
- Arts Programming – Tacoma Arts Month, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown
- Tacoma Creates Funding – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, virtual Expanded Learning Opportunity programming, virtual Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs, rapid murals

The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality is proud to nurture our city's creative ecosystem, providing support to our artists and organizations as well as opportunities for all residents and visitors to access and participate in the arts. We encourage the development of the local arts community through the distribution of funding for arts and cultural programs, the management and stewardship of the City's public art collection, and the production of a variety of public programs and professional development opportunities that enhance and contribute to Tacoma's local economy.

 cityoftacoma.org/arts

 @TacomaArtsCommission

 @TacomaArts

The following report covers Arts programming year January 1 – December 31, 2021.

ARTS FUNDING

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS

Supports organizations and groups producing arts-focused community projects that are inclusive, accessible, and address equity issues

- \$225,000 in total funding requests from 40 applicants
- \$114,000 funded to 27 organizations and groups
- 140 programs and events produced
- 21,747 participants at in-person events
- 41,673 views of online programs
- 99% of all programs and events were free
- 1,319 artists involved in producing programs and events

Funded organizations: Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Barefoot Collective, Blue Cactus Press, Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, Greentrike, Hilltop Artists, Integrity, Latinx Unidos of the South Sound, Local Uplift, McKinley Hill Street Fair, Metropolitan Glass, ND Fashion & Art Boutique, Northwest Sinfonietta, Pierce County AIDS Foundation, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Supportive Housing Association, Tacoma Ocean Fest, Tacoma Refugee Choir, Tacoma Sister Cities, Tacoma Tree Foundation, Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra, Trio Guadalevin, University of Washington, WayOut Kids, Write253, YWCA Pierce County



Northwest Sinfonietta musicians and Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center dancers perform at Tacoma Art Museum, in conjunction with The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection exhibition. Photo courtesy of Northwest Sinfonietta.

"We did this activity as a family and all 4 children loved it. It is a particularly stressful time for us so Thank You for giving us a little peace and calm when we need it the most!"

- Recipient of a Greentrike Cares Kit



PANDEMIC PIVOT

"We were eager to return to the stage after a 1.5 year absence due to the pandemic and to use this performance as a tool for healing. We wanted to create a big gathering that would still be safe and allow the community to reconnect and recognize that this has been a difficult time for everyone, due not only to the pandemic but also divisiveness and racial reckoning. We hoped to unite around the message that we are in this together and will work together to get through it together." - Tacoma Refugee Choir

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 programming

- \$120,000 in total funding requests from 40 applicants
- \$72,000 funded to 24 artists for the 2021-22 biennium
- 12 programs and events produced in first year
- 192 participants at in-person events in first year
- 7,392 views of online programs in first year
- 100% of all programs and events were free
- Council Districts of funded artists: 4 from District 1, 4 from District 2, 7 from District 3, 6 from District 4, 3 from District 5

Funded artists: Curtis Ashby, Marit Berg, Katie Dean, Priscilla Dobler, Lance Griffith, Maria Jost, Kareem Kandi, Rian Kelly, Gene Kemper, Rico Lastrapes, David Long, Miriam McBride, Adrian Milano, Mark Monlux, Gloria Muhammad, Tamiko Nimura, Chandler O'Leary, Gerardo Peña, Kellie Richardson, Mauricio Robalino, Suzanne Skaar, Cydney Stephens, Jacob Sunday, Chuck Taylor

"I am very fortunate to have worked with so many great people on this project. I learned a lot, I feel like I grew as an artist, and I can't wait to work on another project!"

- Curtis Ashby

"The artistic goals of my project were to push the boundaries of how we engage with public artwork and how to create work that is biodegradable. I wanted to create work that was educational and beneficial not only to our community but as well to our ecosystem. I did meet my overall goals, this opportunity has increased my desire to continue pushing and fighting for equality through permaculture methods."

- Priscilla Dobler



PANDEMIC PIVOT

"The original concept of my project was to put on a virtual concert featuring local artists from Tacoma. With the difficulty of logistics in booking/times/and technology, I felt it was necessary for me to pivot to a studio session day where I funded the recording/filming of artists in Tacoma. It played more to my strengths of being a producer/content creator." - Adrian Milano



R&B artist Adrian Milano performing a virtual concert at eTc Tacoma. Photo courtesy of Adrian Milano.



Curtis Ashby's *Wings of the Wetland* mural at Tacoma Housing Authority's James Center North property. Photo by Kody Granger.

MUNICIPAL ART PROGRAM

The City of Tacoma dedicates 1% of construction costs of capital projects to the creation of public art. These projects are part of the City-owned Municipal Art Collection.

East 64th Street

- Artists: Elisheba Johnson and Kristen Ramirez. Completed *East Tacoma Textiles*, a site-integrated artwork that is part of the streetscape improvement project

“Our project is called East Tacoma Textiles and we were really thinking about how all these different textiles from places all over the world could show up and we could kind of create something that shows the multi-layered and dimensional fabric of this neighborhood.”

- Elisheba Johnson



Elisheba Johnson and Kristen Ramirez's *East Tacoma Textiles* medallions embedded in the streetscape on East 64th Street. Photo by Silong Chhun.

Greening the Tacoma Mall Area

- Artists: Teruko Nimura and Alex Schelhammer. Initiated two community engagement projects meant to encourage greening and tree planting in the Tacoma Mall Area

Environmental Services Stormdrain Artwork

- Partnership with Environmental Services and Spaceworks as part of the stormwater awareness campaign: “If it hits the ground, it hits the Sound”
- Artists: Angela Larsen and Saiyare Refaei & Gloria Joy Kazuko Muhammad. Completed two stormdrain murals
- Artists: Katie Dean and Speakthunder Berry. Completed four stormdrain stencils
- Artist: Dionne Bonner. Completed artistic outreach materials and wraps for City garbage trucks

Black Lives Matter Mural

- Artist: Dionne Bonner. Initiated project and outreach for Black Lives Matter mural for Tollefson Plaza. Partnership with the Tacoma Art Museum and the City's Human Rights Commission

Park Plaza North Murals

- Artists: Speakthunder Berry and Peter & Araquin Boome. Completed two new murals. Partnership with Spaceworks

Public Art Maintenance

- Tidy Up Tacoma – nine murals repaired, dozens of traffic box wraps inventoried and cleaned
- Welcome Figure – major cleaning and addition of metal cap to extend lifespan for decades
- Tacoma Totem Pole – removed the pole from Firefighter's Park after an intentional process to review it, centering local Native voices



Mural by Speakthunder Berry at the Park Plaza North facility. Photo courtesy of Spaceworks Tacoma.



Before and after photos showing a detail of the cleaning of Shaun Peterson's *Welcome Figure*, located in Tollefson Plaza. Photos courtesy of Tiffany Hedrick.

FOCUS ON TACOMA TOTEM POLE

After decades of requests from the local Native American community to remove the Tacoma Totem Pole in Firefighter's Park, the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality convened a panel of experts, centering representation from Puyallup, Haida, and Tlingit tribes, to consider its removal. While some historical records claim that its original artists were Alaskan, specifically Tlingit, representatives from the Tlingit and Haida tribes do not believe the pole had any authentic ceremonial or clan origins, and thereby claim no association with it. The faux Northern style of the carving also contributes to misinformation about the art forms of the Coast Salish peoples of this region. The style, method of carving, and secrecy surrounding the creation of the pole indicate it is just as likely that it was created by non-Native Americans, poorly appropriating a Native American aesthetic.

"Objects like this have mis-educated the general public on what is traditional Salish art and have disenfranchised local Salish tribal members, like the Puyallup, from actually continuing traditions representative of this area...Our images, our symbols and culture are not meant to be turned into mascots, kitsch pop art..."

- Andrew Strobel, elected delegate for the Seattle Tlingit and Haida Community Chapter



Workers in a boom lift take down the Tacoma Totem Pole, after it was officially removed from the City's Municipal Art Collection.

PUBLIC ART PARTNERSHIPS

The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality manages public art projects for a variety of partner agencies.

Sound Transit

- LINK Extension – Artist: Kenji Stoll. Fabricated artwork for 7 new LINK light rail stations

Pierce Transit

- Waterwall – Artist: RYAN! Feddersen. Completed *Mini-Tahoma*, a large-scale integrated artwork for Pierce Transit's main bus turnaround on Commerce, between S. 9th & S. 11th Streets



RYAN! Feddersen in front of *Mini-Tahoma* at Pierce Transit's facility on Commerce Street. Photo by Brock Johnson.

"Oftentimes we think of art and cultural experiences as destinations. You have to go to museums, you have to go to theater. What I love about public art, especially those centered around transit areas, is that it brings those art experiences to the people...and I think that intersection between art and transit and urban living is really worth investing in."

- Michael Liang, Program Director, Spaceworks Tacoma

Metro Parks Tacoma

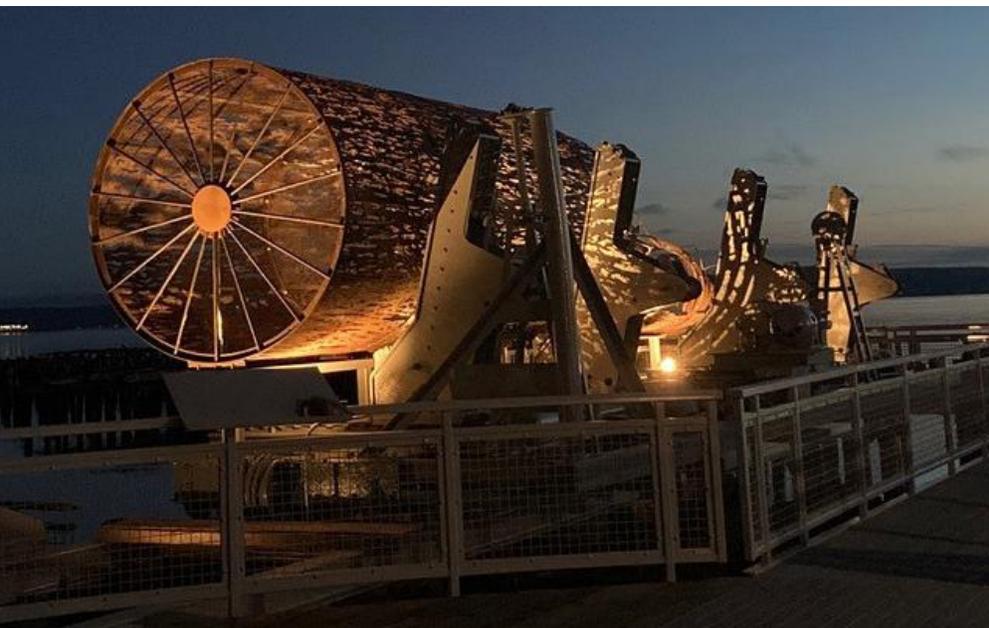
- Public Art Reaching Community (PARC) Training Program – Participating artists: Rahman Curtis Barika, Adika Bell, Priscilla Dobler Dzul, Sophia Munic, Teruko Nimura, Gillian Nordlund, Gerardo Peña, Paige Pettibon, Trenton Quioco, Jessica Spring, Monica Yi, and the team of Anida Yoeu Ali & Masahiro Sugano. Completion of final three temporary projects on the theme of “Long Distance,” exploring what it means to connect with people while maintaining a pandemic-safe physical distance
- Brown’s Point Playfield – Artist: Paige Pettibon. Selected artist from PARC training cohort for permanent site-responsive artwork
- South Pacific Aquarium – Artist: TBD. Initiated selection process for permanent site-responsive artwork
- Dickman Mill – Artist: Mary Coss. Installed *Ghost Log*, large scale signature piece for park along the Ruston Way Waterfront
- Billy Ray Memorial at the Eastside Community Center – Artist: Jasmine Brown. Installed *You Got This*, sculpture honoring the life of Billy Ray Shirley, III and the work of Team Billy Ray
- Youth Memorial at the Eastside Community Center – Artist: Dionne Bonner. Installed *In Loving Memory*, mural acknowledging the loss of young people to gun violence on the Eastside
- Metro Parks Tacoma Art Plan - Ongoing management of Public Art Program

FOCUS ON BILLY RAY

Billy Ray was a teenager who dreamed of a community center. After his life was cut short by gun violence, his mother, brother, and friends became Team Billy Ray and sparked the momentum that led to the Eastside Community Center. Billy Ray was fond of saying “I got this!” whenever someone needed a hand. The Eastside Community Center is proof that when young people dream big, anything is possible — You got this!

“This is a place for those kids who need a village, if you will. And this statue speaks to those kids. It’s important that when kids walk through that building, they see themselves in him. That’s what we’re trying to convey: dream big, work hard, you got this, and you have the village here to support you.”

– Shalisa Hayes, Mother of Billy Ray Shirley, III



Mary Coss's *Ghost Log* sculpture lights up the Ruston Way Waterfront. Photo courtesy of Mary Coss.

Artist Jasmine Brown poses with the sculpture she created of Billy Ray Shirley, III. Photo by Russ Carmack.

TACOMA ARTS MONTH

Held each October, Tacoma Arts Month is a celebration of arts and culture in our community.

20th Anniversary Special Program

- Produced a *30-minute program* with TV Tacoma that included a blessing from the Puyallup Tribe as well as performances by Tacoma Poet Laureate Lydia K. Valentine, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Tacoma Refugee Choir, Write253, Trio Guadalevin, and Northwest Sinfonietta in collaboration with Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center.

Community Events

- 67 community-produced events

Arts at the Armory

- Free two-day event
- Close to 90 artists participated
- 2,284 attendees
- Estimated \$62,000 in earnings from sale of work
- Live music from Kareem Kandi World Orchestra provided by KNKX
- Event sponsored by Tacoma Arts Live

AMOCAT Arts Awards

- 2021 awards were crowdsourced and honored the collective community for work done over the past two years

Communication and Sponsorship

- Redesigned tacomaartsmoonth.org website
- Partnered with Pacific Lutheran University to design digital and print materials
- Partnered with Downtown Tacoma Partnership to hang new banners in downtown Tacoma
- Weekly newsletters announcing upcoming events
- Secured sponsorships with Grit City Magazine, NWPB, ParentMap, South Sound Magazine, Macaroni Kid, KNKX, Showcase, Preview Magazine, Travel Tacoma

"I want to express my gratitude to the culture bearers and creatives who show up with compassion and care in service to our community. We will continue looking to you to help shine a light on our humanity and our connections."

- Jamika Scott, Tacoma Arts Commission member

"What a wonderful community of artists we have here in Tacoma! Such a joy to visit with artists and visitors to the event."

- Arts at the Armory participating artist

"I want to honor Phi Pottery. Phi has been doing amazing work and grassroots fundraising for BIPOC and LGBTQ communities, and this work has largely ramped up during COVID. Phi Pottery offers reduced and free classes for BIPOC and LGBTQ students, and is making really strong and genuine efforts to reduce barriers."

- Anonymous

"Shout out to Lisa Fruichantie the executive director for Alma Mater. The work she is doing is absolutely fantastic- she's indigenizing spaces and making sure that BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other artists who have been historically excluded in our city now have ample opportunities to work and shine!"

- Kelly Lynch



Attendees to Arts at the Armory browse the booths of close to 90 local artists. Photo courtesy of City of Tacoma.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality collaborates with local organizations to provide free professional development workshops for Tacoma creatives and organizations, providing them with skills to advance their work.

- Rainbow Center facilitated two workshops: LGBTQ Core Competency and Gender Identity
- Spaceworks Tacoma facilitated two workshops: Building Better Business Foundations Part I and Part II
- Artist Trust facilitated a virtual hangout and networking session

ARTTOWN TV SHOW

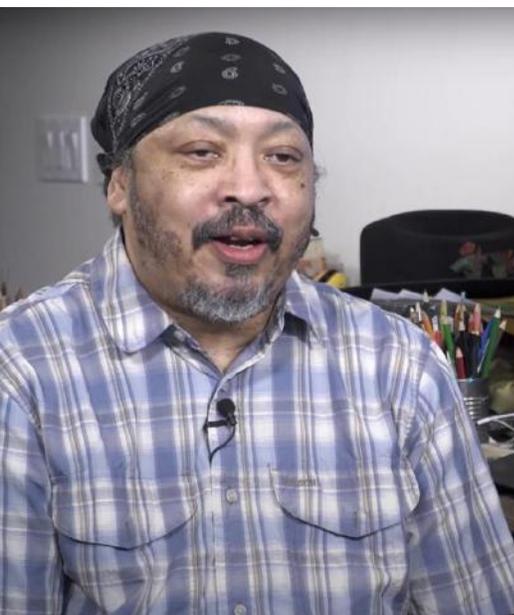
artTown is a cultural documentary-style TV show exploring Tacoma's emergence as a major creative hub in the Pacific Northwest. The series offers segments featuring diverse perspectives on a variety of creative disciplines.

- Packaged and aired one re-mixed episode
- Rebooted show production after 2 year hiatus; new content will air in spring 2022

TACOMA POET LAUREATE

The poet laureate actively contributes to and advances Tacoma's literary community in meaningful ways through readings, performances, workshops, presentations, publications, and special projects.

- 2021-2023 Tacoma Poet Laureate Lydia K. Valentine hosted or participated in 30 programs, serving 4,052 attendees
- 2019-2021 Tacoma Poet Laureate Abby E. Murray hosted or participated in 16 programs, serving 2,517 attendees
- Hosted virtual *Pass the Torch* event in April
 - Featuring poetry presented by all 9 of Tacoma's poets laureate: Lydia K. Valentine, Abby E. Murray, Kellie Richardson, Thy Nguyễn, Lucas Smiraldo, Josie Emmons Turner, Tammy Robacker, Antonio Edwards, Jr., William Kupinse
 - Reached 1,069 viewers through Facebook Livestream



Visual artist Chuck Taylor shares about his artistic practice during an interview for artTown.



Professional development opportunities included a virtual hangout and networking session hosted by Artist Trust.



Lydia K. Valentine, Tacoma's 2021-2023 poet laureate. Photo courtesy of Lydia K. Valentine.

This 15-member volunteer commission is made up of Tacoma residents with expertise as practicing artists, arts professionals, educators, and arts supporters. They advocate for the arts and provide policy direction to support the ongoing development of public art and arts programs and projects in Tacoma.

Commission members: Rosie Ayala (Chair), Benjamin Maestas III (Vice Chair), Jasmine Brown, Heather Conklin, Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Anna Holcomb, Michael Kula, Elizabeth Pew, Olivia Samuel, Jeanette Sanchez, Jamika Scott, James Stowe, MaryMikel Stump, Alejandra Villeda, Sarah D Woodson. City Council liaisons: John Hines, Keith Blocker (alternate)

- 725 hours of volunteer service
- Council Districts of commissioners: 6 from District 1, 3 from District 2, 1 from District 3, 3 from District 4, 2 from District 5

SPACEWORKS TACOMA

Spaceworks makes Tacoma culturally vibrant and economically strong through training and support for artists and creative entrepreneurs. Spaceworks was launched in 2010 as a joint initiative of the City of Tacoma and the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and is operated as a program of the Chamber with its own staff and steering committee.

- 132 businesses and 141 participants directly served
- 56% of those served are people of color
- 64% of those served are women
- 16 new businesses created
- 18 new murals created
- \$111,000 investment attracted through Kiva microloans
- \$89,653 in Spaceworks contracts to local entrepreneurs and artists

Read the full 2021 Spaceworks Tacoma Impact Report at spaceworkstacoma.com

"Spaceworks provides high quality, culturally relevant, tailored training to creative entrepreneurs who may not fit into other more traditional business training efforts. The outcomes, in terms of numbers of businesses launched and jobs created, set the standard for other programs."

– Ben Mauk, Associate Director of Capital Projects and Retail Operations University of Washington-Tacoma, Spaceworks Steering Committee Member



Spaceworks alumni Trevor Warren at Star Bazaar outdoor market. Photo by Silong Chhun.



Spaceworks alumni Coxswain Press at Star Bazaar outdoor market. Photo by Silong Chhun.

TACOMA CREATES

Tacoma Creates is a voter-approved initiative to increase access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences throughout Tacoma by reducing barriers to access and expanding offerings, particularly for underserved youth. Tacoma Creates funding supports non-profit arts, culture, heritage, and science organizations in expanding equitable access to public programs, increasing opportunities in neighborhoods throughout Tacoma, expanding educational options for youth, and building sustainability for continued services to the community.

The following summary covers Tacoma Creates programming year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Read the full Tacoma Creates Annual Report at tacomacreates.org

TACOMA CREATES FUNDING

2020 – 2021 Comprehensive Organizational Support and Impact Funding

Tacoma Creates funding supports arts, culture, heritage, and science organizations doing general public and youth education programming, as well as internal capacity building and equity and access work.

- \$4,700,000 funded to 57 cultural organizations
- 412 total programs and events
- 268 general public programs
- 144 youth education programs
- 82,355 participants at in-person events, 84% attended for free
- 497,817 views of online programs, 91% accessed programs for free
- 97% of all programs were either free or had free or reduced-price ticket options

Funded Organizations: Alchemy Skateboarding, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Breaker Gallery, Buffalo Soldiers Museum, Cathartic Muse, Centro Latino, Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma, Destiny City Film Festival, Elements of Education, Entertainment Resource Alliance, Fab-5, FabLab Nonprofit, Foss Waterway Seaport, Genesis HCDC, The Grand Cinema, Greentrike, Hilltop Artists, Historic Tacoma, Job Carr Cabin Museum, Kareem Kandi World Orchestra, LeMay - America's Car Museum, Museum of Glass, The Night Show with Will & Keilani, Northwest Sinfonietta, Oasis Youth Center, Orchestral Recital Series of Tacoma, Permaculture Lifestyle Institute, Puget Sound Revels, RAIN Incubator, Rainbow Center, Spaceworks Tacoma, Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma Arts Live, Tacoma Art Walk, Tacoma Boat Builders, Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Tacoma City Ballet, Tacoma Concert Band, Tacoma Historical Society, Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma Ocean Fest, Tacoma Opera Association, Tacoma Refugee Choir, Tacoma Sister Cities, Tacoma Tree Foundation, Tacoma Urban Land Trust, Tacoma Urban League, Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, Tacoma Waterfront Association, Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, Tacoma Youth Theatre, Ted Brown Music Outreach, WayOut Kids, Write253



Participant from Citizens for a Healthy Bay's Environmental Justice Camp looking through a pair of binoculars. Photo courtesy of Citizens for a Healthy Bay.



Foss Waterway Seaport educators Kaela Arellano and Julia Berg in the middle of an air pressure demonstration for 6th grade Tacoma Public Schools students. Photo courtesy of Foss Waterway Seaport.

TACOMA CREATES

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Of the 412 programs and events offered by Tacoma Creates organizations, 35% of them were classes, camps, or workshops exclusively for youth under age 18.

- 32 organizations provided youth education programs
- 144 youth education programs offered
- 19,000 in-person participants
- 138,000 online participants
- 77% participated for free
- 20% participated on a sliding scale or through scholarships

TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Tacoma Creates funds support cultural organizations in providing youth education programs for Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) students during the school day as well as after school through our Expanded Learning Opportunities partnership.

- 21 organizations provided education programs in partnership with TPS
- \$442,000 in Tacoma Creates funds used by organizations to support TPS student learning
- 60% of TPS schools had a connection with three or more Tacoma Creates organizations



A child engaging with an interactive activity at Greentrike. Photo courtesy of Greentrike.

“Our craftspeople shifted to designers and production crews, turning out hundreds of kit projects to be assembled by youth with limited tools and skills. Because we delivered programs into homes, we also served siblings, cousins, and whoever else was around. The value was having access to creative, constructive opportunities to learn by doing, on a regular and reliable schedule, when things were volatile and unpredictable.”
- Tacoma Boat Builders



Emily Pinckney leads a beach walk for Tacoma Ocean Fest. Photo courtesy of Tacoma Ocean Fest.



A student woodcarving with a mentor at Tacoma Boat Builders woodshop. Photo courtesy of Tacoma Boat Builders.

TACOMA CREATES

TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

Tacoma Creates partners with Tacoma Public Library (TPL) as part of our commitment to present cultural programming in different parts of the city.

- 16 organizations presented programming in partnership with TPL
- 45 virtual events presented

EQUITY AND ACCESS

Equity and Access are central goals for Tacoma Creates, and Tacoma Creates is providing support to funded organizations to help them deepen their work in this area.

- 60 individuals representing 46 organizations participated in equity-related virtual workshops
- 22 hours of direct organizational consulting provided

“My son had so much fun this week and I wanted to thank you for creating such a positive environment. He is often challenged by low self-esteem, but this week he felt seen, appreciated, and cared for. He felt like you believed in him and that you pushed him to grow skills he is proud of.”
- Parent of Tacoma Little Theatre class participant

TACOMA CREATES ADVISORY BOARD

The volunteer members of the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board serve in an advisory capacity to Tacoma Creates administration on funding programs to support public benefit throughout Tacoma.

Board members: Davon White (Chair), Amanda Figueroa (Vice Chair), Kenya Adams, Putter Bert, Megan Clark, Sheree Cooks, Jason Gamboa, Roxane Hreha, Michael “Tony” Hudson, Connor Mon, Dominica Myers, Liesl Santkuyl

- 12 community volunteers representing all 5 council districts
- 348 hours of volunteer service



Alchemy Skateboarding's Executive Director Taylor Woodruff presents a tutorial on how to screenprint graphics onto a skateboard. Photo courtesy of Alchemy Skateboarding.