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# TACOMA Focus

CELEBRATING THE INVESTMENT MOMENTUM IN  
WASHINGTON'S THIRD LARGEST CITY

## NEW UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW IN TACOMA

In March 2014, the Washington State Legislature allocated \$400,000 in seed capital for a Tacoma campus of the University of Washington School of Law. This investment will create a legal education program for the one million residents of the South Sound who have not been served adequately by the state's existing law schools. The curriculum will focus on environmental law, international trade law, water rights and intellectual property rights. Program advocate Bruce Kendall, President/CEO of the Tacoma Pierce County EDB, remarked that "The Law School at UW-T will provide highly trained attorneys who will serve the law firms, other businesses, governments and non-profit organizations of the South Sound."

The Tacoma Law Foundation is in the process of raising the \$2.5 million necessary to create and operate the inaugural program. Initially, five instructors will be hired to teach evening classes to a first class of 30 students at the University of Washington Tacoma. The School of Law is anticipated to open in Fall 2015/2016.



## DOWNTOWN AMENITIES INCREASING

Fitness, artistic exploration and gathering places are continually emerging in downtown Tacoma. A new \$20 million YMCA is under construction at South 17th and South Market streets. It is expected to open in early 2015. The Tacoma Art Museum is undergoing a 16,000 sf expansion to house 300 Western paintings donated by Erivan and Helga Haub. Art aficionados will be able to view the collection by Frederic Remington, Georgia O'Keefe, William Acheff and Kevin Red Star in November 2014.

Several new eateries and nightclubs have opened along Pacific Avenue's "restaurant rows"—South 7th to South 9th streets and South 17th to South 21st streets. The Forum (815 Pacific Ave.) now occupies the former Paddy Coyne's location and primarily serves customers in the Central Business District. Jimmy John's, Pho Than Brothers and Granola's now lease space at the restored Joy Building (1708-1716 Pacific Ave.) and cater to the 5,000+ students, faculty and visitors of the University/Museum District.



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# ECONOMIC GROWTH BUOYS MARKET RATE HOUSING

Developers are investing capital into market rate housing in Tacoma because they see opportunity and recognize the competitive advantages the community offers. Tacoma continues to be a major employment center, reinforced by the attraction of State Farm and expansion of cybersecurity, health care and other firms. In addition, Tacoma supports commuters who travel to Seattle and Olympia via public transit in less than one hour each way.

In February, Carino & Associates broke ground on The Henry along the Foss Waterway (161 units) and in the vicinity of the Tacoma Dome. The project is expected to be completed in late summer 2015. More than 600 other market rate multi-family development projects are planned to start later this year.



# AUTO DEALERS EXPAND



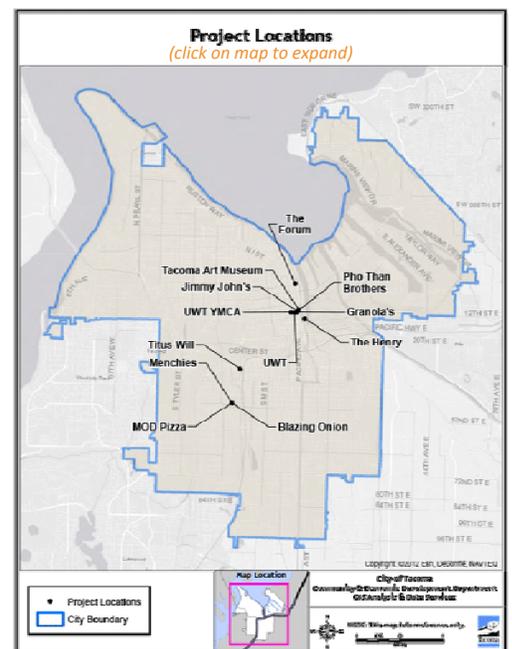
Tacoma's auto dealers in 2014 are expected to keep pace with their 2013 success, whereby four of them expanded along South Tacoma Way. Early this year, Titus Will started construction on a \$7.5 million, two-phase expansion. In addition, the dealers have formed an Auto Dealers Association to capitalize on their co-location, improve market share and enhance the physical appearance of South Tacoma Way. It is envisioned that this cooperative effort will enable them to attract more customers.

# TACOMA MALL EXPANSION New Eateries

Simon Properties celebrated the grand opening of three new restaurants—MOD Pizza, Blazing Onion and Menchies. They are located in a new 9,400 sf building outside Tacoma Mall's food court and across from BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse.

Tacoma Mall now offers even more food choices. MOD Pizza, a Seattle-based pizza venue, offers creative, self-designed pizzas. Blazing Onion, a local chain, is known for its gourmet burgers and chicken, including a lamb burger, a buffalo burger and a wild boar burger. Menchies offers a variety of self-serve frozen yogurt options and toppings. Explore and enjoy.

*2014 Momentum: Strong due to new market rate housing and new retail in the downtown and neighborhood business districts, auto dealer expansions, new cultural amenities and strategic educational opportunities.*



**AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE TACOMA**