

CALL TO ARTISTS

City of Tacoma

Environmental Services Artist in Residence

Tacoma, WA



Deadline: January 4, 2024, 11:59pm

Info Session: December 6, 2023, 5:30pm via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/91425177962>

Budget: \$60,000 artist stipend (\$4,000 per month), plus additional funds for project implementation

Time Commitment: March 2024 – May 2025, part-time

Overview

The City of Tacoma’s Division of Arts & Cultural Vitality, in partnership with the Environmental Services Department (ES), is seeking an artist to serve as an Artist in Residence (AiR) on a part-time basis from March 2024 through May 2025. The AiR will act as an in-house creative strategist and embedded artist to help address issues in the Solid Waste Division, especially related to public outreach and education. The AiR will produce tangible projects meant to increase awareness of issues, improve customer experience, and inspire behavioral change that leads to healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound. The AiR will work part-time in-person for a minimum average of 20 hours per week for the duration of the residency and will have a dedicated workstation at Solid Waste offices. The stipend is meant to compensate the artist for their time and work. In addition to the stipend, the AiR will be provided access to funds for project implementation, on-site workspace, materials, expert staff, and in-kind support from ES. This AiR is funded by 1% for Art contributions generated by ES. The City encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds and creative disciplines to apply.

Eligibility

- This call is open to artists residing or working in King, Pierce, Thurston, or Kitsap counties for the duration of the residency.
- Applicants must be willing to acquire a Tacoma Business License and Commercial General Liability Insurance if selected (staff is available to help with this).
- Applicants cannot be a member of the Tacoma Arts Commission or an employee of the City of Tacoma.
- People who are members of historically disenfranchised racial, ethnic, cultural, and other identity groups are especially encouraged to apply.

Selection Timeline – all dates subject to change

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| Optional Info Session | December 6, 2023, https://zoom.us/j/91425177962 |
| Applications Due | January 4, 2024 (call closes 11:59pm PST) |
| Finalists Selected | By January 19, 2024 |
| Optional Finalist Site Visit | Week of January 22, 2024 |
| Finalist Interviews & Selection | Week of January 29, 2024 |



Glass recycling wraps by Jasmine Brown, Mark Monlux, Chandler O’Leary, Paige Pettibon, and Stan Shaw.

About the Opportunity

The City of Tacoma's neighborhoods and local waterways are negatively impacted by improper disposal of trash and garbage. To address this issue, the AiR program aims to inspire behavioral changes that lead to healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound. Although the AiR will be focused on Solid Waste, they will also be exposed to the other work that ES does. Issues the program may address include (but are not limited to) litter pollution impacting waterways, improper disposal of hazardous waste, and illegal dumping in the public right-of-way. The AiR will be structured in four phases:

- I. Research & Demonstration Project– The first phase will consist of research, informed by a comprehensive orientation. The artist will develop additional understanding of City processes through a demonstration project selected in partnership with project staff, based on the artist's practice.
- II. Workplan Development
- III. Workplan Implementation
- IV. Final Report and Recommendations- In the fourth phase, the artist will develop a Final Report, including a summary of future recommendations to help guide future opportunities to integrate art and creative practices into the work of ES.

Projects produced during the residency may include (but are not limited to) artistic interventions; community engagement projects; temporary public artworks; the identification or mapping of cultural and community assets; the creation of new artworks; and/or access to artistic and cultural experiences that support the goals and values of the residency.

AiR Goals:

- Increase awareness of issues identified by ES
- Improve experience for customers interacting with ES
- Inspire behavioral change that leads to healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound

AiR Values:

- Community Engagement
- Continuous Learning and Adaptation
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Innovation and Exploration
- Transparency and Publication
- Sustainable Approaches

About Environmental Services (ES)

ES protects and restores natural resources, keeping our city clean, safe, and livable through garbage and recycling pickup, wastewater treatment, household hazardous waste disposal, protection from stormwater pollution, and much more. We believe everything we do supports healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound, leaving a better Tacoma for all. [ES Strategic Plan 2018-2025](#). ES has three lines of business:

- Solid Waste Management: Solid Waste provides garbage, recycling, and yard/food waste services for about 53,000 single-family homes and numerous multifamily, business, and industrial customers, as well as a residential bulk item disposal service, and Call-2-Haul. The utility also operates a full-service transfer station, recycling center and household hazardous waste collection facility at the Tacoma Recovery & Transfer Center.
- Stormwater Management: The water that leaves our streets, yards and driveways flows directly – untreated – to lakes, streams, rivers, and Puget Sound. Stormwater Management concentrates on preventing pollution before it reaches our waters and restoring sites already affected by industry and

urbanization. The utility maintains more than 500 miles of public stormwater pipe, 22,000-plus storm drains (catch basins,) four pump stations and numerous detention ponds/structures.

- **Wastewater Management:** ES operates and maintains two wastewater treatment plants, 45 pumping stations and more than 700 miles of sewer pipe. The treatment plants clean about 10 billion gallons of wastewater each year, ensuring that only clean water is released into Commencement Bay. Wastewater Management works with local businesses and property owners to prevent materials from being discharged to the sanitary sewer that can cause treatment plant upsets, sewer backups into buildings, and sanitary sewer overflows to the environment. Biosolids from the treatment process are transformed into TAGRO premium soil products.

Selection Criteria

- Conceptual quality and demonstrated results as exhibited in past artworks
- Experience working in and with project and/or design teams
- Experience working with and engaging the public in projects
- Desire to coordinate and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders
- Ability to translate complex ideas into digestible materials
- Interest in the subject matter of the residency
- Artists with a connection to the Tacoma area will be prioritized
- The City is committed to reflecting the community it serves and delivering purposeful and equitable community outreach and engagement to our communities

Submission Process: Artists interested in this opportunity should apply for this project via Submittable <https://tacomaarts.submittable.com/submit>. Applicants will be asked the following questions during the application process:

- **Statement of Interest:** (300-word limit) Describe your interest and fit for the project, based on the selection criteria.
- **Biographical Statement:** (200-word limit) Describe your creative practice and any relevant experience.
- **Supplemental Question #1:** (200-word limit) Describe your engagement and outreach style/methodology and how you would engage with ES staff and stakeholders.
- **Supplemental Question #2:** (200-word limit) The City of Tacoma values Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Describe your experience working towards anti-racist practices and issues facing historically underserved communities.
- **(Optional):** (200-word limit) Anything else you want to tell us? *If you have a connection to Tacoma, please describe it here.*
- **Resume**
- **References** will be requested for finalists
- **10 work samples with descriptions:** Include at least 7 images. You may also include up to 3 relevant documents and/or videos. The panel will review a minimum of 5 pages of documents and 3 minutes of video. *You may upload your work samples in jpg, gif, png, pdf, doc, docx, mp4, mov, avi, or mpg format.*

Questions? Contact Ricky Reyes with questions or to request a link to the recorded December 6 info session reyes@cityoftacoma.org, 253-999-2223