

CITY OF TACOMA OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURAL VITALITY



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



2022: REIMAGINING, REBUILDING, AND RECONNECTING

2022 was a year of reimagining, rebuilding, and reconnecting as our community adapted to the new norms and evolving community needs that have been revealed over the past few years. The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality is proud to support Tacoma's creative ecosystem in this challenging work, providing support to creatives and organizations as well as enhanced opportunities for our community to access and participate in the cultural community in a variety of ways across all neighborhoods. This year also marked the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality's transition into the City's Community & Economic Development Department, with alignment around equitable opportunities for growth and enhancing quality of life in our community. The following report illustrates the far-reaching impacts that the City's investments in the cultural sector have on our community.

2022 Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality Staff

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

2022 Tacoma City Council Members

Mayor Victoria Woodards
Council Member John Hines (District 1)
Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh (District 2)
Council Member Keith Blocker (District 3)
Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka (District 4)
Council Member Joe Bushnell (District 5)
Council Member Kiara Daniels (At-Large)
Council Member Conor McCarthy (At-Large, through June 2022)
Council Member Olgy Diaz (At-Large, starting August 2022)
Council Member Kristina Walker (At-Large)



Youth from Metro Arts dance class perform at Kaleidoscope, the Tacoma Arts Month opening party. Photo by Jamika Scott.

“One thing I have always loved about Tacoma, is that we have never been afraid of hard work, of getting our hands dirty, and having the grit and determination to make something better for our future. We take something others have overlooked, neglected, or forgotten, and we make something beautiful. We believe community is not something that happens on its own, but it is something that is shaped and formed, over time and with many of our hands.

This past year, when I look at all the work that has been done by our artists, creatives, cultural organizations, and community groups, I am reminded of how important they are to our city's identity, our sense of pride, and to bringing us together. Culture and creativity, history and heritage, have a valuable place in the City of Destiny. I am excited to share all that has been undertaken and accomplished in 2022.”

John Hines, Tacoma City Council Member

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigwətəb čəl txʷəl tiit ʔa čəl ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəstətlils 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 2022 OVERVIEW

This overview covers Arts program year January 1 – December 31, 2022.

ARTS FUNDING

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS

\$114,000

awarded to **29**
organizations and
groups



143 programs and
events produced



26,639
participants at
in-person events



565,361 views of
online programs



99.8% of all
programs and
events were free



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

41 programs and
events produced

4,400 participants
at in-person
events

13,021 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

4

4 major artworks
re-installed

6

6 murals restored

1

1 community-involved
maintenance project

4

4 new murals

5

5 permanent public art
projects managed for
outside agencies

ARTS PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



TACOMA ARTS MONTH

- 397 people attended Kaleidoscope opening party
- 92 community-produced events
- Over 40 artists participated in Tacoma Studio Tour
- Over 100 artists participated and 2,442 people attended Arts at the Armory

6

RESOURCES FOR CREATIVES

6 free workshops hosted

50

ARTISTS HIRED

Paid opportunities for 50 artists and creatives



artTown TV SHOW

- Produced 1 episode with 4 segments



TACOMA POET LAUREATE

- 83 events, readings, workshops, and presentations
- 10,739 people served

TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION

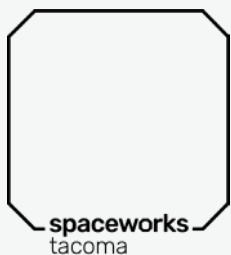


15 volunteer arts advocates



445 hours of volunteer service

SPACEWORKS TACOMA



- 9 new businesses created
- 23 professional development and networking events
- 275 people served through one-on-one technical assistance
- 38 business incubator participants
- 9 art installations, 7 murals, 1 video installation

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

TACOMA CREATES

This overview covers Tacoma Creates program year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

FUNDING



- \$4,200,000 funded to 51 cultural organizations
- 1,054 total programs and events
- 989,749 participants at in-person events
- 74% of all programs were free for all participants

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS



- 36 organizations provided youth education programs
- 397 youth education programs offered
- 57,547 youth participated in programs
- 77% participated for free

PARTNERSHIPS



- 24 organizations provided education programs in partnership with TPS
- 22 field trips supported with free bus transportation
- \$807,350 in Tacoma Creates funds used by organizations to support TPS student learning

tacoma public library
Start here. Go anywhere.

- 17 organizations presented programming in partnership with TPL
- 825 people attended free programs

TACOMA CREATES ADVISORY BOARD



12 community volunteers



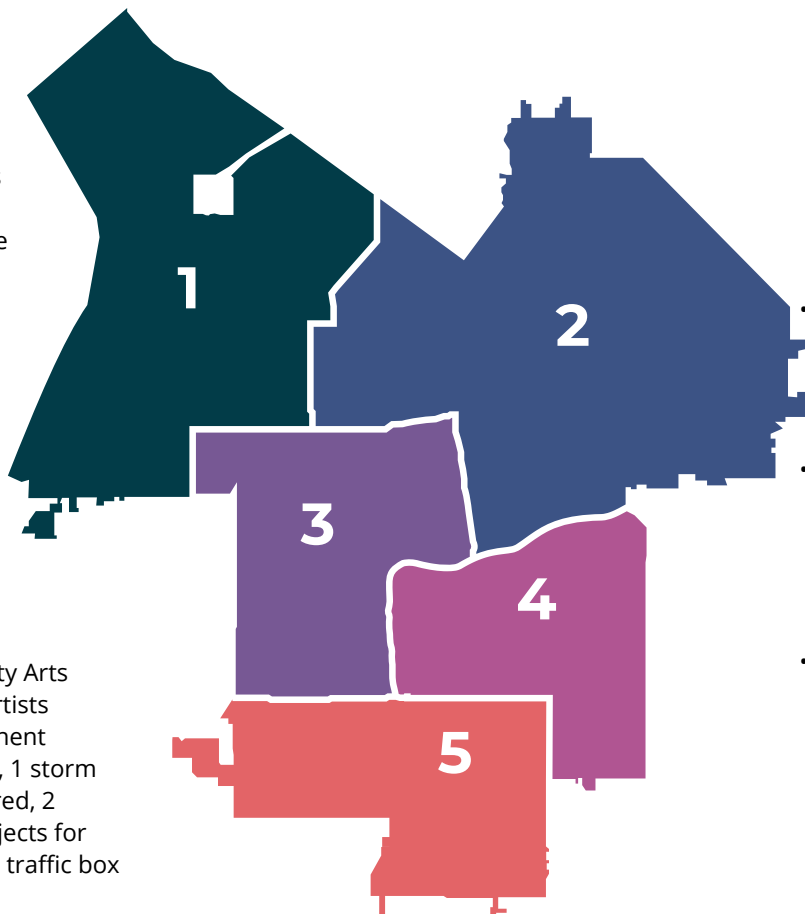
317 hours of volunteer service

Read the full 2021-22 Tacoma Creates Annual Report at tacomacreates.org

IMPACT BY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

District 1

- Arts Funding – 13 Community Arts Projects programs, 4 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 1 permanent artwork for Zoo
- Arts Programming - Tacoma Arts Month, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown, 15 Tacoma Studio Tour artists, 28 Arts at the Armory artists
- Tacoma Creates – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, Beyond the Bell / Club Beyond after-school programming, Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks - Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs



District 3

- Arts Funding – 15 Community Arts Projects programs, 7 TAIP artists
- Public Art – Series of permanent artworks for LINK extension, 1 storm drain mural, 2 murals restored, 2 temporary engagement projects for Tacoma Mall neighborhood, traffic box wrap replacements
- Arts Programming - Tacoma Arts Month, Arts at the Armory, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown, 7 Tacoma Studio Tour artists, 21 Arts at the Armory artists
- Tacoma Creates – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, Beyond the Bell / Club Beyond after-school programming, Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs, Black Business Investment Program, Sound Transit murals

District 5

- Arts Funding – 9 Community Arts Projects programs, 3 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 2 murals restored, maintenance for Oak Tree Park community artwork
- Arts Programming – Tacoma Arts Month, Kaleidoscope opening party, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown, 1 Tacoma Studio Tour artist, 13 Arts at the Armory artists
- Tacoma Creates – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, Beyond the Bell / Club Beyond after-school programming, Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs

District 2

- Arts Funding – 17 Community Arts Projects programs, 4 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 1 integrated artwork along Fawcett Ave, 1 audio artwork along Ruston Way, 1 permanent artwork for Browns Point Playfield, 1 storm drain mural, storm drain stencils, 1 mural for Black Lives Matter, 1 mural repaired, traffic box wrap replacements, series of permanent artworks for LINK extension
- Arts Programming - Tacoma Arts Month, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown, 11 Tacoma Studio Tour artists, 22 Arts at the Armory artists
- Tacoma Creates – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, Beyond the Bell / Club Beyond after-school programming, Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs, 1120 Downtown coworking space, rapid murals, window and video installations, Sound Transit Murals

District 4

- Arts Funding – 10 Community Arts Projects programs, 6 TAIP artists
- Public Art – 1 permanent artwork for Eastside Community Center, 1 storm drain mural, storm drain stencils, 1 mural replaced, 1 mural restored, 1 permanent artwork repaired, traffic box wrap replacements
- Arts Programming – Tacoma Arts Month, Tacoma Poet Laureate, artTown, 7 Tacoma Studio Tour artists, 21 Arts at the Armory artists
- Tacoma Creates – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support, Beyond the Bell / Club Beyond after-school programming, Tacoma Public Library programming
- Spaceworks – Training and technical assistance for creative entrepreneurs, permanent mural planning

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 resources for creatives that enhance and contribute to Tacoma's local economy.

 cityoftacoma.org/arts

 [@TacomaArtsCommission](https://www.facebook.com/TacomaArtsCommission)

 [@TacomaArts](https://www.instagram.com/TacomaArts)

The following report covers Arts programming year January 1 – December 31, 2022.

ARTS FUNDING

COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS

This funding program supports organizations and groups producing arts-focused community projects that are inclusive, accessible, and/or address equity issues.

- \$114,000 awarded to 29 organizations and groups
- 143 programs and events produced
- 26,639 participants at in-person events
- 565,361 views of online programs
- 99.8% of all programs and events were free
- 958 artists involved in producing programs and events

Funded organizations: Adrian Milano, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Blue Cactus Press, Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, Classical Tuesdays in Old Town, Destiny City Film Festival, Fab-5, Fort Nisqually Foundation, Hilltop Artists, Intentions Juice and Smoothie Bar, KBTC/ Bates Technical College, KowchSurferz Anonymous, Krownless Kings, Northwest Sinfonietta, Pierce County AIDS Foundation, Rainbow Center, Salishan Association, Sixth Avenue Business District, Supportive Housing Association, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma Light Trail, Tacoma Ocean Fest, Tacoma Refugee Choir, Tacoma Sister Cities, Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, The Bajan Station, WayOut Kids, Write253



Cellist Gretchen Yanover performs at Tacoma Ocean Fest. Photo courtesy of Tacoma Ocean Fest.

"The wonderful thing about this project is the parents' and kids' reaction to the lessons. The kids aren't the only ones learning. During our African dance episode, the parents were just as engaged as the students and had several questions for the instructor, they even wanted to get in on the dancing! The beauty in this is the parent engagement component in our programming. It was great to see the parents and kids in deep conversation with each other about the episode."

- WayOut Kids

"One student talked about developing her own anime style. Art is an important thing in her life because it gave her an escape from things in her life that are distressing to her... A sibling pair emphasized the impact of the opportunity to make more permanent art for their community and the importance of the utility box art wrap being representative of our community."

- Feedback regarding Salishan Association's digital art camp

TACOMA ARTISTS INITIATIVE PROGRAM

TAIP recognizes the creative expression of Tacoma artists, financially assists them in generating new work and growing their skills, and engages the broader community through free public components.

- \$72,000 awarded to 24 artists for the 2021-22 biennium
- 41 programs and events produced
- 4,440 participants at in-person events
- 13,021 views of online programs
- 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, True Koroï, Rico Lastrapes, David Long, Adrian Milanio, Mark Monlux, Gloria Joy Kazuko Muhammad, Tamiko Nimura, Chandler O'Leary, Gerardo Peña, Kellie Richardson, Mauricio Robalino, Suzanne Skaar, Cydney Stephens, Jacob Sunday, Chuck Taylor

"My favorite part about keeping sketchbooks is that when people see my drawings, it inspires them to share their stories about the places I've drawn...It reminds me that these places aren't only important to me—they are part of our collective memories and histories, and I hope my drawings will help remind Tacomans of how special and unique our city is."

- Chandler O'Leary



Marit Berg gives an artist talk about her installation at The Gallery at Tacoma Community College. Photo courtesy of Marit Berg.



Sketch and site photo from Chandler O'Leary's sketchbook documentation project. Photo courtesy of Chandler O'Leary.

"Last night I was at the Washington State History Museum for the Japanese American Day of Remembrance event—@Tamikonimura @celia_np and @anidashogun all performed their work. It was an intimate event and it was medicine for my soul...I'm sure it's nice to be an internationally famous whatever...but in my experience the greatest impact comes from the art created within my own community. When I can experience the awe of feeling there's so much strength, beauty and depth here in my own city."

- Jessica Hanley Vega speaking about the event Tamiko Nimura helped organize

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.

Lushootseed Stamps

- Artist: Chris Duenas. Installed dozens of concrete stamps with Lushootseed phrases and original artwork along Fawcett Avenue, between 6th Avenue and S. 19th Street

"One of the biggest things we talk about when it comes to language revitalization is visibility. If you go out in Tacoma right now, you'll see signs everywhere that are in English...that's a normal sign of a healthy language... for us in the [Puyallup Tribe's] Language Program, we want visibility in Lushootseed....it makes an environment where you feel safe to speak this language."

- Chris Duenas, Artist, Puyallup Tribal Member, Puyallup Tribe Language Program Staff, speaking about his Lushootseed stamps



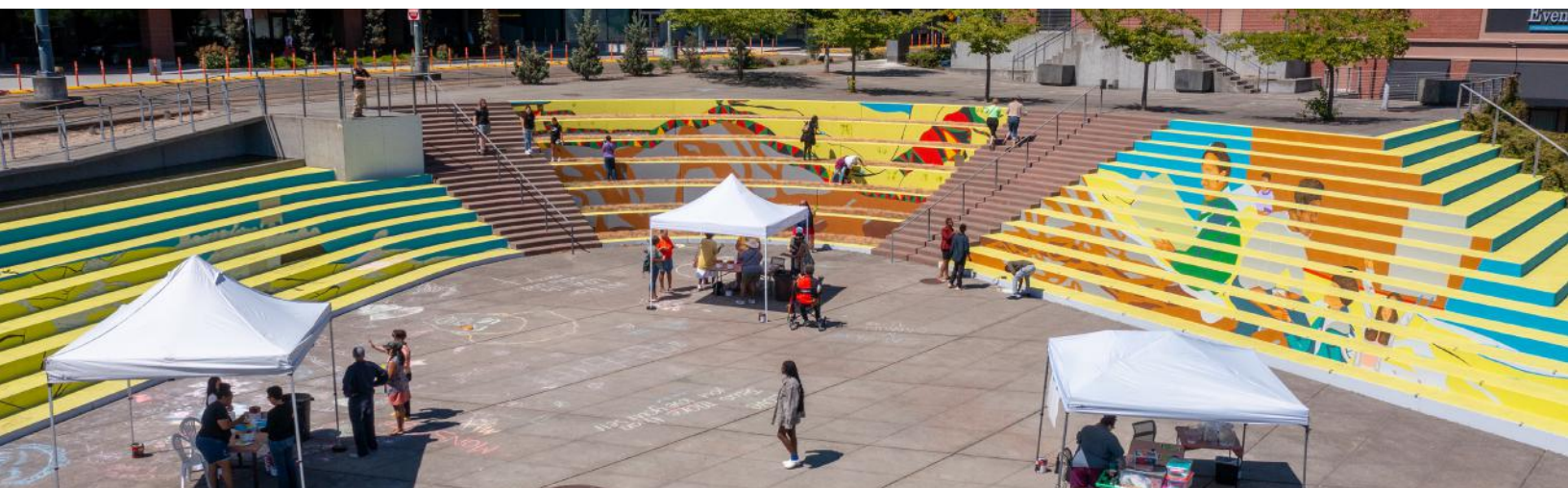
Concrete stamp design of an octopus in Fawcett Avenue sidewalk, designed by Chris Duenas.

Black Lives Matter Mural

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

"[Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.] said when the day of judgment arrives, we will have to repent not for the acts of the bad but the silence of the good. We in Tacoma will not be silent, good people. We will not. We will speak out, we will act, we will create art. We will create community. We will do everything that we need to do to make sure that there is absolute belonging in the city."

- Laurie Jenkins, Washington State Speaker of the House, speaking at the Black Lives Matter Mural dedication



Artists and community members collaborate to paint the Black Lives Matter Mural in Tollefson Plaza. Photo courtesy of City of Tacoma.

Greening the Tacoma Mall Area

- Artists: Teruko Nimura and Alex Schelhammer. Completed two **community engagement projects** that resulted in tree planting and community connections in the Tacoma Mall area

Environmental Services Storm Drain Artwork

- Partnership with Environmental Services as part of the stormwater awareness campaign: "If it hits the ground, it hits the Sound"
- Artists: Kate & Josh Thun, Jorge Garcia, Nori Kimura. Completed three storm drain murals
- Artists: Katie Dean and Speakthunder Berry. Completed nine storm drain stencils

Public Art Maintenance

- Tidy Up Tacoma – one mural replaced, 6 murals restored, several traffic box wraps installed or replaced
- Oak Tree Park – replaced over 20 community-painted bluebird houses as part of upkeep for permanent public art project
- Prairie Line Trail – 4 permanent artworks re-installed following major sewer replacement project

"[The Black Lives Matter Mural] is an opportunity for the Tacoma City Council, and the City staff to visually show our support of our anti-racist work...That is our commitment as a council...to call it out in such a way that everyone understands that we have to not just be quiet, but we have to be vocal and loud...we have to show those in our community who look like me today that their lives matter."

– Victoria Woodards, Mayor of Tacoma, speaking at the Black Lives Matter Mural dedication



Student at Madison Headstart paints a wishing tree as part of Teruko Nimura's community engagement project in the Tacoma Mall area.



Community members help plant trees at Madison Headstart as part of Teruko Nimura's community engagement project in the Tacoma Mall area. Photo courtesy of Teruko Nimura.



Jorge Garcia's storm drain mural at S. 48th Street & Pacific Avenue.

PUBLIC ART PARTNERSHIPS

The Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality provides leadership in public art management for partner agencies; strengthening the public art ecosystem in our region and increasing opportunities for artists.

Sound Transit

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

Metro Parks Tacoma

- Youth Memorial at the Eastside Community Center – Artist: Dionne Bonner. Dedicated *In Loving Memory*, mural acknowledging the loss of young people to gun violence on the Eastside
- Browns Point Playfield – Artist: Paige Pettibon. Proposal development for permanent site-responsive artwork
- South Pacific Aquarium – Artist: Mindy Barker. Proposal development for permanent site-responsive artwork
- Dickman Mill – Artist: Mary Coss. Released *Ghost Timbre*, audio artwork and podcast series in support of the permanent public artwork *Ghost Log*
- Metro Parks Tacoma Art Plan - Ongoing management of Public Art Program

“As an individual that has lost a family member due to gun violence... I’m mindful of my loss, but I’m reminded that I don’t want anyone else to go through or experience what I had to experience. This is a reminder that there’s still more work to be done.”

- Antonio McLemore, Eastside Community Center Supervisor, speaking about *In Loving Memory* at the Eastside Community Center

“We understand life through our own personal lens, but history is multidimensional. People had lived [on this site] for centuries, but the mill was only there for one. By adding the aural “*Ghost Timbre*” to the visual “*Ghost Log*”, I’m not just slowing people down so they spend more time with the art and the place. I’m also able to tell different parts of that story, different layers.”

- Mary Coss, Artist, speaking about her audio artwork *Ghost Timbre* that accompanies her permanent public artwork *Ghost Log* at Dickman Mill Park



Artist Dionne Bonner with her mural, *In Loving Memory*, at the Eastside Community Center.



Artist Mary Coss speaks at the dedication of *Ghost Timbre* at Dickman Mill. Photo courtesy of Metro Parks Tacoma.

TACOMA ARTS MONTH

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

Opening Party

- Performances and activities by: Puyallup Tribe Canoe Family, Metro Arts Tacoma, Asia Pacific Cultural Center's Hula Halau 'O'Kealaakua Naniloa Mana'oakamai, Tamiko Nimura, Real Art Tacoma – Alex Vile band, Vision Step Team, The Playground Kiki, True Koro'i, Permaculture Lifestyle Institute, Write253 and Line Break Press, Suzanne Skaar, Jacob Sunday, Tacoma Water, Safe Routes to School, EnviroChallenger, The Grand Cinema and Tacoma Film Festival
- Visual art by Mauricio Robalino and Rachel Heimbigner
- 397 people in attendance at this free community event
- Event sponsored by Metro Parks Tacoma and STAR Center

AMOCAT Arts Awards

- Recognizing outstanding outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts
- Nominated by community; selected by Tacoma Arts Commission
- Arts Patron: Grit City Magazine
- Community Outreach by an Organization: Real Art Tacoma
- Community Outreach by an Individual: Tamiko Nimura

"They [Real Art Tacoma] are one of few all ages venues for music, arts and local vendors to showcase their talents & find connections within the community. They do the most when it comes to making sure bands, vendors & patrons are taken care of and feel supported."

- AMOCAT Arts Award nomination from community member

"Grit City Magazine has a devotion to sharing Tacoman's life stories in an artistic way and raising up those in the creative community. Their focus draws out the artistry of local creatives of all mediums. Giving creators the opportunity to be published can be very beneficial to artists' careers, and it helps the community discover their talents."

- AMOCAT Arts Award nomination from community member



The Playground Kiki performs at Kaleidoscope, the Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party. Photo by Jamika Scott.



Hula Halau 'O'Kealaakua Naniloa Mana'oakamai performs at Kaleidoscope, the Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party. Photo by Jamika Scott.



Alex Vile band performs at Kaleidoscope, the Tacoma Arts Month Opening Party. Photo by Jamika Scott.

TACOMA ARTS MONTH

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

Community Events

- 92 community-produced events

Tacoma Studio Tour

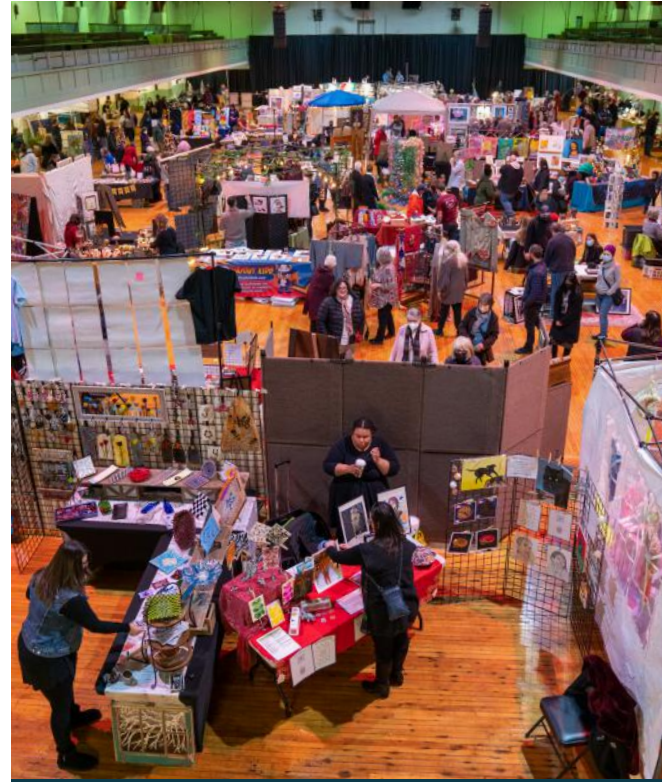
- Free two-day event
- Over 40 artists at 38 studio locations covering Council Districts 1 - 5
- Average of 139 visitors to each studio
- Over \$17,460 in earnings from sale of work

Arts at the Armory

- Free two-day event
- Over 100 artists participated
- 2,442 attendees
- Over \$51,000 in earnings from sale of work
- Live performances by: Kareem Kandi World Orchestra (sponsored by KNKX), Syncopation Foundation, Steve and Kristi Nebel, Jaziré featuring SYNC TANC
- Event sponsored by Tacoma Arts Live at the Tacoma Armory

Communication and Sponsorship

- Partnered with Pacific Lutheran University to design digital and print materials
- Weekly newsletters and social media posts announcing upcoming events
- Media sponsorships with Crosscut, KBTC, KNKX, NW Public Broadcasting, ParentMap, Preview Magazine, Showcase Media, South Sound Business, South Sound Magazine



Attendees at Arts at the Armory browse the booths of over 100 local artists. Photo courtesy of City of Tacoma.

"It was my first time participating and I have nothing but great things to say about how well this event was organized...All of the communication was clear and easy...Thank you for the immense amount of thoughtful work you put into this event!"

- Tacoma Studio Tour participating artist

"Great turnout, accessible, fun and awesome artists to meet, mingle, and connect with. All of my friends that came absolutely loved it too!"

- Arts at the Armory participating artist



Tacoma Studio Tour attendees chat with artists Kim Davenport and Laurie Davenport. Photo courtesy of City of Tacoma.



Tacoma Studio Tour attendee contributes to a group painting at the studio of Mary Mann. Photo courtesy of City of Tacoma.

RESOURCES FOR CREATIVES

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.

- Sound Outreach facilitated Building Credit and a Budget for Creatives
- Miriam Works, in collaboration with Business Impact NW, facilitated Marketing for Creatives Part I and II
- Washington Lawyers for the Arts facilitated Taxes for Creatives
- Dalisha Phillips of Love Light Energy Art Therapy facilitated Keeping It Cool Through Change, Challenge, and Conflict Utilizing Art-Making and Creativity
- 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.

- Researched, planned, and produced 4 segments featuring: [Tamiko Nimura](#), [Chuck Taylor](#), [Adrian Milanio](#), [Tacoma Light Trail](#)

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 83 programs, serving 10,739 attendees
- Poetry shared at City events including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration, Mayor Woodard's State of the City Address, and Juneteenth Celebration



Literary artist Tamiko Nimura shares about her artistic practice during an interview for artTown.

PANELISTS

Thank you to the following 41 community members who served on panels in 2022 to review applications for funding and public art. Panelists bring a diversity of perspectives and experiences to the review process, stemming from their connection to community and knowledge of relevant subject matter.

Courtney Acoff, Andreta Armstrong, Curtis Ashby, Nancy Bess, Tasi Biersack, Beverly Bowen-Bennett, Jasmine Brown, Margaret Bullock, Erica Chang, Sarah A. Chavez, Vivian Deswagewr, Ley Earthwright, Alejandro Fernandez, Carol Goforth, Daria Gosztyla, Shauna Hansen, Mette Hanson, Doug Immerman, Lisa Johnson, Michealea Lemons, Katie Mattran, Renee Meschi, Kerry Neison, JR Nobles, Sarah Norberg, Derek Nunn, Sean Olson, Dana Peregrine, Alexandra Pilch, Olivia Samuel, Chris Spaulding, Wendy Spaulding, MaryMikel Stump, Patsy Surh-O'Connell, Erin Tail, Alyssa Torrez, Amy Van Mechelen, Alejandra Villeda, Grace Washington, Rachel Wilkie, Joe Williams

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: Benjamin Maestas III (Chair), Olivia Samuel (Vice Chair), Jasmine Brown, Heather Conklin, Heide Fernandez-Llamazares, Michael Kula, Natasha Lane, Wade Neal, Elizabeth Pew, Jeanette Sanchez, Jamika Scott, MaryMikel Stump, Alejandra Villeda, Angela Weaver, Joe Williams. City Council liaisons: John Hines, Keith Blocker (alternate)

- 445 hours of volunteer service
- Council Districts of commissioners: 5 from District 1, 4 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.

- 9 new businesses created
- 23 professional development and networking events for alumni
- 275 people served through one-on-one technical assistance
- 38 business incubator participants
- 12 coworking tenants
- 3 new employees (property and business coordinator, public art coordinator, communications coordinator)
- 9 Woolworth Window installations
- 4 public programs for artists-in-residence
- 7 murals
- 1 video installation
- 1 new strategic plan (in-progress)

"Starting a business right before Covid was frightening and then so many unknowns! Spaceworks Tacoma has continued to support and show up for me in all the ways they can, and I know when I need direction or just miss seeing my fellow business and art friends, I can reach out and there's always something going on! If you think you might benefit - whether it be creating a mural to beautify Tacoma or you want to start or accelerate your small creative enterprise, they're where you should start!"
– Falon Foss, Gold Dust Tacoma

Find out more about Spaceworks Tacoma at spaceworkstacoma.com



Artists-in-Residence Patsy Surh O'Connell with Bella Kim and Sun Watkins. Photo by Spaceworks Tacoma.



Blake Mara of Heritage Coffee and Plant House. Photo by Spaceworks Tacoma.

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, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Read the full Tacoma Creates Annual Report at tacomacreates.org



"Live it OutLoud" participants performing for a crowd. Photo courtesy of Ted Brown Music Outreach.



A young child receives hands-on assistance with the violin, to the delight of her parent. Photo courtesy of Northwest Sinfonietta.

TACOMA CREATES FUNDING

2021 – 2022 Comprehensive Organizational Support and Impact Funding

Tacoma Creates funds eligible arts, culture, heritage, and science non-profit organizations in Tacoma to support their public programming work, with a focus on equity, access, and public benefit.

- \$4,200,000 funded to 51 cultural organizations
- 1,054 total programs and events
- 657 general public programs
- 397 youth education programs
- 989,749 participants at in-person events
- 74% of programs were free for all participants

Funded Organizations: Alchemy Skateboarding, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Breaker Gallery, Buffalo Soldiers Museum, Cathartic Muse, Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, Communities for a Healthy Bay, Classical Tuesdays in Old Town, Creative Colloquy, Destiny City Film Festival, Destiny City Music Collective, Elements of Education Partners, Fab-5, Fablab Nonprofit, Foss Waterway Seaport, Greentrike, Hilltop Artists, Job Carr Cabin Museum, LeMay--America's Car Museum, Museum of Glass, Northwest Sinfonietta, Orchestral Recital Series of Tacoma, Permaculture Lifestyle Institute, Puget Sound Revels, Rainbow Center, Spaceworks Tacoma, Symphony Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma Arts Live, Tacoma Boat Builders, Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Tacoma City Ballet, Tacoma Concert Band, Tacoma Historical Society, Tacoma Light Trail, Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Tacoma Ocean Fest, Tacoma Opera Association, Tacoma Refugee Choir, Tacoma Tree Foundation, Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, Tacoma Waterfront Association, Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, Ted Brown Music Outreach, The Barefoot Collective, The Grand Cinema, The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra, The Night Show with Will & Keilani, WayOut Kids, Write253

TACOMA CREATES

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Of the 1,054 programs and events offered by Tacoma Creates organizations, 38% of them were classes, camps, or workshops exclusively for youth under age 18.

- 36 organizations provided youth education programs
- 397 youth education programs offered
- 57,547 youth participated in programs
- 77% of programs were free to all youth

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 the Beyond the Bell / Club Beyond program.

- 24 organizations provided education programs in partnership with TPS
- 22 field trips, serving 1,200 students, supported with free bus transportation
- \$807,350 in Tacoma Creates funds used by organizations to support TPS student learning
- 90% of TPS schools had a connection with at least one Tacoma Creates organization



Children engaging with an interactive activity at Children's Museum of Tacoma. Photo courtesy of Greentrike.

"Through our film camps we teach storytelling, script writing, filming and editing to youth filmmakers. At the end of each camp, students get to share their films with their peers and family members at a public screening of their work. One of our camps was completely free, on site at Tacoma Housing Authority's Salishan location. This took place entirely because of funding from Tacoma Creates."
- The Grand Cinema



Students navigate remote-controlled Spheros through a course. Photo courtesy of FabLab Education.



An elder provides hands-on instruction to youth at Korea Day at Asia Pacific Cultural Center. Photo by Margarita Corporan.

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.

- 17 organizations presented 49 programs in partnership with TPL
- 825 people attended free Tacoma Creates programs

“Being able to work with Tacoma Art Museum in a new capacity through Tacoma Creates has brought art workshops into the communities at the libraries. Families can connect with artwork and create hands-on projects, while building memories.”
- TPL Youth Services Librarian

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.

- 39 individuals representing 29 organizations participated in equity-related workshops
- 21 hours of coaching and technical assistance provided to 11 organizations
- 70% of funded organizations indicated specific, measurable continuing or new work in supporting access for public programs
- 60% of funded organizations indicated intentional work to support culturally or ethnically specific communities, and/or other underrepresented groups

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: Putter Bert, Allison Campbell, Megan Clark, Sheree Cooks, Amanda Figueroa, Jason Gamboa, Maeve Glackin-Coley, Roxane Hreha, Michael “Tony” Hudson, Connor Mon, Dominica Myers, Naomi O’Connor, Brian Robinson, Liesl Santkuyl, Davon White

- Representing all 5 council districts with backgrounds and experience in arts, culture, heritage, science, K-12 education, and community engagement
- 317 hours of volunteer service



Participants gather for Tacoma Ocean Fest’s “Titlow Beach Walk” event. Photo courtesy of Tacoma Ocean Fest.



While half of the group is kayaking, the other students perform water quality tests in the Foss Waterway Seaport lab. Photo courtesy of Foss Waterway Seaport.