

Fact Sheet

Tacoma Art Museum remains the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region.

Mission: Tacoma Art Museum transforms our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future.

Vision: Defying expectations, advancing community voices, and expanding avenues of engagement and learning

Notable Achievements

Named by *USA Today* as one of the “Top 10 Great Places to See Art in Smaller Cities,” the museum has developed a national reputation for presenting art in a thought-provoking yet accessible manner, with a strong commitment to Northwest art through its acquisition and exhibition programs. In addition to dynamic exhibitions, nationally touring shows, and historical retrospectives, TAM serves the diverse communities of the region through innovative programming and learning opportunities for all ages, including free community events. TAM is the leading anchor museum in the Tacoma Museum District which is key to the City of Tacoma’s cultural renaissance and economic development.

Recent achievements include:

- 17th Annual Dia de los Muertos Festival (2021)- each fall this festival celebrates Day of the Dead with community altars, music, dance, food and more
- In the Spirit: Northwest Native Arts Festival- every August this festival activates the Tacoma Museum District with a diversity of offerings celebrating the art and culture of NW Native people
- TAM holds the 5th largest collection of glass art in the US including the largest retrospective museum collection on continuous view of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly
- TAM’s Haub Collection of Western American Art is one of the nation’s premier western art collections

Audience

During fiscal year 2019, Tacoma Art Museum served 57,000 total visitors. These visitors included 2,400 members, 11,725 paid admission attendance, and 19,000 free admission attendance.

- **65% visit no cost.**
- More than **7,000 students served** through school field trips, off-site before- and after-school programs, teen programs, and summer camps.
- More than **200 teachers directly benefit** from teacher development programs.
- TAM works in partnership with three local school districts to ensure student and teacher programs are meeting the needs of the local community
- **Nearly 25,000 visitors utilize the art-making experiences** available in TAM Studio.
- **More than 8,000 visitors participate in community festivals** throughout the year

Current visitor demographics are:

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- Visitors primarily come from Pierce County (55%), King County (16%), Thurston (7%), and other parts of Washington (4%), out of State (16%) as well as from out of country (1%).

Tacoma Art Museum has 1,800 member households. The Director's Circle (annual gift of \$1,200 or more) has nearly 108 members. The museum worked with 85 volunteers who donated 5,800 hours of their time to support the museum in the 2019 fiscal year.

TAM's Architectural Evolution

Tacoma Art Museum was established 1935 and opened at its current location on May 3, 2003, when it moved from a 1920s era bank building. Designed by architect Antoine Predock, the 50,000 square-foot building had 10,780 square-feet of exhibition space, nearly twice the size of its previous location.

In November 2014, the museum opened the first exhibition from the generous donation of the Haub Family Collection of Western American Art in the new Haub Family Galleries. Doubling TAM's exhibition space, the Haub Family Galleries added 14,000 square feet to the Predock building.

In January 2019, the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Wing, an expansion of 4,510 square feet designed by award-winning architect Tom Kundig of Seattle-based Olson Kundig, opened to showcase selected works from the promised gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection and the Museum's extensive collection of Northwest studio art glass.

Curatorial Overview

The [museum's collection](#) of more than 5,100 works emphasizes the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. Since its founding in 1935, Tacoma Art Museum has focused on the art and artists of the Northwest in both its exhibitions and collecting. In 2012, the gift of the Haub Family Collection of Western American Art enabled the museum to broaden focus to the art of the entire western region. A key goal in the museum's strategic plan is to build the premier collection of Northwest art and western American art and be a leader in the preservation and scholarship of the region's visual arts. The museum's rich collection now includes over 5,100 artworks, about 3,800 of which are by Northwest artists or related to the region. They range across all media and span from the late 18th century to the present. Approximately 11% of the permanent collection is on public view at any time.

In addition, TAM has, and continues to, selectively acquire works by national and international artists. These artworks provide connections to broader contexts in which to understand the art of the western region such as how it relates to national and international art movements, compares and contrasts with other regional expressions, reflects important historical moments and trends, and reveals key influences on its development.

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The museum is proud to have the largest retrospective museum collection of Dale Chihuly's work (dating 1977 to present) on public long-term display. He had his first museum exhibition at Tacoma Art Museum in 1968.

TAM's online collection database was launched in November 2011. The project's goal is to make the museum's object collection available online. (<http://tacoma.emuseum.com/emuseum/>)

Highlights of the collection include:

- Works in all media created by artists who are natives of, practice or taught in, and/or have meaningful connections to the Pacific Northwest and greater western region
- the largest retrospective museum collection of [glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly](#) on continued view; the Paul Marioni Collection; the Anne Gould Hauberg Collection and the promised gift of the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection of 225 works including studio art glass, paintings, and sculptures
- the largest collection of [studio art jewelry](#) by Northwest artists;
- the [Haub Family Collection of Western American Art](#), one of the nation's premier western American art collections, with approximately 300 works spanning 200 years. The Haub Family Collection is the first major museum collection of western American art in the Pacific Northwest region;
- [over 120 works](#) from the Washington Art Consortium's Safeco/Liberty Mutual Collection of Northwest art;
- In addition, TAM has key holdings in [19th century European](#) and [20th century American art](#); and one of the finest collections of [Japanese woodblock prints](#) on the West Coast.

Educational Programs

Tacoma Art Museum offers a variety of programs for educators and students. In the museum's galleries and studios, teachers and students can explore works of art on view, express ideas, and connect art with everyday experiences. These include:

- TAM Teach! – Professional development workshops
- School Field Trips
- Family and Kids Programs
- Teen Art Council and Teen Programs
- Homeschool Days
- Girl Scout Programs
- Art Afterschool
- And more!

In the Community

Tacoma Art Museum is committed to building community. Some of the museum's strong partnerships include:

- Participating member of the Tacoma Museum District

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- Area cultural institutions including Museum of Glass, Washington State History Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Henry Art Gallery, and Frye Art Museum
- Area universities and community colleges including University of Washington–Tacoma, Pacific Lutheran University, University of Puget Sound, and Pierce College
- Tacoma Public Libraries, Pierce County Libraries, Fort Lewis Library System, and McChord Air Force Base Library
- Centro Latino
- Tacoma School of the Arts
- Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center
- YMCA
- Tacoma Public Schools, Clover Park School District, Puyallup School District

Access Opportunities

Tacoma Art Museum strives to reduce financial barriers to access through a variety of programs.

- The Art Access Pass allows library card holders to check-out the Pass at any one of six public library branches throughout Pierce County. Families and groups of four receive free admission to Tacoma Art Museum for the check-out period.
- Neighborhood Nights, every Thursday, are free from 5-8 pm.
- Free admission is also available year-round to active duty military/veterans/reservists and their families and all children under 18
- EBT Cardholders admission rates are \$1/person and \$2/family.