

TACOMA ART MUSEUM

MEDIA RELEASE

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NORWAY'S MINISTER OF CULTURE AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADER TO VISIT TACOMA ART MUSEUM

Tacoma, WA — Edvard Munch is not the only important Norwegian figure at [Tacoma Art Museum](#) (TAM) this weekend. The museum is delighted to receive [Norway's Minister of Culture, Linda Hofstad Helleland](#), and [Norwegian Parliamentary Leader Trond Helleland](#). Pacific Lutheran University (PLU), led by the university's president Thomas W. Krise, will host a reception for the dignitaries at TAM this weekend. Along with Krise, TAM's executive director Stephanie Stebich and the museum's board president Steve Harlow of U.S. Trust will greet the dignitaries. Stebich will also guide guests through the exhibition [Edvard Munch and the Sea](#), featuring Norway's most famous artist.

"Pacific Lutheran University has been celebrating our Norwegian heritage for 125 years, and marking Norway's national holiday with a flag raising ceremony for the last 10 years," shared Krise. "This year we are especially delighted that our community partner Tacoma Art Museum is joining in the recognition of the ties between the Puget Sound region and Norway."

The Consul of Norway in Seattle, Kim Nesselquist, invited the Hellelands to visit and participate as parade Grand Marshals at the annual 17th of May Festival in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood. The festival celebrates Norway's Constitution Day. [PLU](#) will start the Constitution Day festivities with a flag raising and breakfast at the [Scandinavian Cultural Center](#), an event greeted with special appreciation by the more than 70 students from Norway attending PLU, and the Norwegian American community in the region. The festivities move to Ballard for an afternoon luncheon at Leif Erikson Lodge, followed by the 2-hour parade at 6:00 pm. [Ballard's 17th of May Festival](#) is the biggest Constitution Day celebration outside of Norway.

In May, 2015, the former Minister of Culture of Norway, Thorhild Widvey, visited TAM, and was enthusiastic about the museum's plans for an Edvard Munch exhibition. She was instrumental in the invitation for the Hellelands' visit this weekend.

Before arriving in Tacoma, Minister of Culture Linda Hofstad Helleland and Parliamentary Leader Trond Helleland will make a stop in San Francisco where they will be hosted by the local Consul for Norway, Sindre Bornstein. They will visit the substantially expanded San Francisco Museum of Modern Art ([SFMOMA](#)) which opens on May 14, designed by Norwegian architectural firm [Snøhetta](#). Both Seattle's Consul Nesselquist and San Francisco's Consul Bornstein will attend the reception at TAM and tour the Munch exhibition.

"We are delighted to welcome the Minister of Culture and the Parliamentary Leader of Norway to Tacoma Art Museum. We look forward to sharing with Minister Helleland, Parliamentary Leader Helleland, and Consuls Nesselquist and Bornstein TAM's unique exhibition celebrating Norway's influential artist, Edvard Munch and his lifelong focus on the sea," said Stephanie Stebich. "We are grateful to our exhibition partners President Tom Krise and PLU."

Edvard Munch and the Sea is a special exhibition saluting the 125th anniversary of PLU. It is the first Munch exhibition in this region. Munch's works are rarely on view in the Pacific Northwest. The theme of the exhibition resonates with our community, making connections between the shores of Puget Sound and the fjords of Norway.

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About Tacoma Art Museum

Celebrating 80 years, Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in the city's downtown and a gathering space for connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 4,700 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader American west. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on continued view; the most significant collection of jewelry by Northwest artists; 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. In 2014, TAM welcomed a gift of 295 works of western American art in the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub gift also included \$20 M for new galleries and endowed funds. In January 2016, TAM announced the gift of the Benaroya Collection, including 225 works of art. The Benaroya gift also includes nearly \$14 M in funding for new gallery space to showcase the collection and an endowment for a dedicated curator and care of the collection. The Haub Family Galleries opened in 2014; the Benaroya addition is expected to open in fall 2018.

HOURS – Tuesdays–Sundays 10 am–5 pm

ADMISSION – Adult \$14; Student, Military, Senior (65+) \$12; Family \$35 (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18). Children 5 and under free. **Third Thursdays free from 5–8 pm.** Members always free.

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