

# TACOMA ART MUSEUM

MEDIA RELEASE

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## Tacoma Art Museum announces new director of development

Tacoma, WA – [Tacoma Art Museum](http://TacomaArtMuseum.org) (TAM) is delighted to welcome Director of Development Michael Downing after a national talent search. Downing is a career fundraising and advocacy professional with more than 30 years of experience. His expertise has helped to propel educational and cultural institutions, allowing them to enhance their services, to grow, and to better serve their constituents in a variety of ways.

Downing will begin at TAM on September 7, 2016, after relocating to Tacoma with his family from Toledo, Ohio. Most recently, he has served as vice president of institutional advancement at St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy in

Toledo. He previously held a similar position at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, was vice president for development, public programs, at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and development and marketing director at the Toledo Zoo, Ohio. Under his leadership at St. John's, contributed income grew more than five-fold. During his tenure at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, membership nearly tripled in five years. He also developed a major gifts program that raised over \$6.5 million in four years, and developed business support programs yielding up to \$200 thousand annually. At the Toledo Zoo, membership more than doubled in a five year period, and Downing introduced a lively "Zoo-To-Do" fundraising event among other initiatives. Downing has also been successful at securing grants, including highly competitive Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grants.

Downing studied fundraising at one of the leading programs in the nation, the Indiana University School of Philanthropy, where he earned a certificate in nonprofit management. He also trained at the Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado. He holds a bachelor of arts in literature from the University of Toledo, graduating magna com laude in the honors program, and also holds a teacher certification from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"Museums have the ability to reach all segments and build community across demographics. TAM is a significant community asset, and its vision as a resource and an educational institution for all – dedicated to excellence through a high quality collection – is distinctly appealing to me," said Downing. "This role is a wonderful opportunity to combine my success in advancement

leadership with a lifelong interest in the arts. My work will support our continued enhancement as a cultural resource and our welcoming role as the community's living room." Downing has enjoyed studying and creating art in the mediums of watercolor, pastels, and graphite.

Executive Director Stephanie Stebich added, "Michael has hands-on experience in all areas of development, from membership and annual fund programs to foundation and major gifts efforts. He is a highly qualified, proven professional, and it has been a genuine delight getting to know him. His leadership skills, ethics, and the consistent quality of his work have been deeply appreciated by the institutions at which he has worked. He'll be a welcome addition to TAM and we think he's really going to enjoy getting to know Tacoma and our community."

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**Image Credit:** Michael Downing, new Director of Development at Tacoma Art Museum. Photo courtesy of Downing.

#### **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 nearly 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on continuous view; the most significant museum 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 included \$20 million for new galleries and endowed funds. The Haub Family Galleries opened in 2014. In January 2016, TAM announced the gift of the Benaroya Collection, including 225 works of art. The donation also includes nearly \$14 million in funding for new gallery space to showcase the collection and an endowment for a dedicated curator and care for the collection. The Benaroya wing is expected to open in fall 2018.

**HOURS** – Tuesdays–Sundays 10 am–5 pm, Third Thursdays 10 am–8 pm; Third Thursdays free from 5-8 pm.

**ADMISSION** – Adult \$15, Student/Military/Senior (65+) \$13, Family \$40 (2 adults and up to 4 children under 18). Children 5 and under free. Members always free.

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