

Tacoma Art Museum to Receive \$15,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

IMAGES AVAILABLE

January 21, 2020 (Tacoma, WA) —Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) has been approved for a \$15,000 National Endowment for the Arts Art Works grant to support the annual Día de los Muertos Festival. This funding will support TAM with expanding the Festival, Tacoma's largest celebration of Latino arts and culture. Overall, the NEA has approved 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million in the first round of fiscal year 2020 funding to support arts projects in every state in the nation, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Symphony Tacoma was the only other Tacoma based organization to receive NEA support in this NEA funding cycle.



“The Día de los Muertos free community festival has been a vibrant celebration of life, art, and Latino culture at TAM since 2005. This multidisciplinary event invites the South Sound community to the Museum to experience the creativity, music, dance, and flavors of traditional and contemporary Latin American culture,” noted David F. Setford, TAM’s Executive Director. “When this event started, 14 years ago, it was attended by 300 people.

Since working with regional artists and community partners such as Proyecto MoLe and Centro Latino, it now attracts upwards of 4,000 people each year. Workshops, concerts, dance performance and a *tapete* sand painting build community as they give voice to local artists and give thousands a chance to broaden their cultural understanding. The grant from the NEA will allow TAM to expand the Festival for 2020 and 2021.”

“The arts are at the heart of our communities, connecting people through shared experiences and artistic expression,” said Arts Endowment chairman Mary Anne Carter. “The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support projects like The Día de los Muertos Festival.”

The history of federal support of the arts will be the focus of *Forgotten Stories: Northwest Public Art of the 1930s*, a major exhibition at the Museum opening on February 22, 2020. During the economic hard times of the 1930s, U.S. government art projects under the WPA and other agencies created a wealth of public art and supported art communities across the country. In the Northwest hundreds of artists were employed and thousands of artworks created but their stories are almost unknown. The exhibition will offer an extensive overview of the bounty and variety of work created in our region and bring forgotten treasures back to view.

Information about *Forgotten Stories: Northwest Public Art of the 1930s*

During the Great Depression, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration launched a number of programs designed to put the millions of Americans who were unemployed back to work. Artists who worked for the federal art programs and projects created a wide variety of artwork for public institutions such as schools, universities, post offices, and hospitals as well as government buildings of all kinds. In addition, the government also established community art centers which offered free classes, art making opportunities and traveling exhibitions.

“TAM is fortunate to be able to exhibit a number of works that have not been seen since their creation and also to borrow several large-scale murals that normally never leave their permanent locations in schools and post offices,” noted Margret Bullock TAM’s Interim Chief Curator and Curator of Collections and Special Exhibitions. “For our region, this exhibition is a celebration of a time when government support for art and artists not only nurtured talent but made long-lasting impacts on the art community and raised the importance of public art in a way that has yet to be matched.”

Exhibition Dates

February 22- August 16, 2020

Events

Press Preview

Thursday, February 20, 10-11:30 am

Please contact Hillary Ryan at hryan@tacomaartmuseum.org to reserve your spot.

About the Grant:

The Art Works funding category supports projects that focus on public engagement with, and access to, various forms of excellent art across the nation; the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence; learning in the arts at all stages of life; and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life. For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

About Tacoma Art Museum

Celebrating over 80 years, Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in Tacoma's downtown with a mission of connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader Western region, 25% of which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art 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 2012, TAM received a gift of more than 300 works of western American art from the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier such collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub family also contributed \$20 million for an endowment and expansion completed in 2014. In January 2019, TAM inaugurated the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Wing which features the extensive Benaroya collection of studio glass as well as TAM's own collection of studio glass, which was started in 1971. TAM is located in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District which consists of six museums including the Museum of Glass, a frequent collaborator.

HOURS – Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; FREE Neighborhood Nights every Thursday 5–8 pm

ADMISSION – \$18 Adult, \$15 Student/Senior (65+), \$40 Family (2 adults and up to four children age 6-18), Children 5 and under free every day. Children 18 and under free every Saturday. TAM Members; active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families always free.

CONTACT – 253-272-4258/ www.tacomaartmuseum.org

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