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Tacoma Art Museum Plans Reopening New Changes for Healthy and Safe Art Experiences

EMBARGOED UNTIL Sept. 15, 2020

September 15, 2020 (Tacoma, WA)— Plans are underway for **Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) to tentatively reopen to the public on Friday, October 9.**

Since closing March 13, TAM staff has been hard at work creating a reopening strategy to provide a safe and healthy environment for visitors and staff. David F. Setford, TAM Executive Director, served on the state-wide committee which created museum specific reopening procedure recommendations that was submitted to the Office of Governor Jay Inslee. Following the guidelines from Washington State and Pierce County Health Department, new procedures will be in place to offer an art respite and nearly contactless experience for visitors.

“We know that it will be a different experience for visitors with these precautions in place, but the ability to enjoy the galleries and exhibitions will not be diminished,” noted Setford. “These new healthy museum procedures will enable long awaited public access to art so visitors can find solace and joy during these turbulent times.”

“I am incredibly proud of the team at TAM. When confronted with the challenges of a sudden closure, they rose to the occasion by creatively and collaboratively problem solving in order to continue to provide mission-led activities for our community,” stated Setford.

Though TAM’s doors will be open again, its role in the community as a place for lively discussions, community celebrations, and educational opportunities has shifted into digital spaces through at least the end of 2021. Via TAM’s website and social media TAM at Home will continue to offer free at-home art making activities, access to TAM’s permanent collection online, and other new programs.

Maintaining a Healthy and Safe Environment

In addition to a robust, regular cleaning and sanitization of all surfaces, handles, and other frequently touched areas, TAM will be working to implement additional air purification technology. This system will be installed in the existing HVAC system and will work to neutralize viruses (including coronaviruses), bacteria, pathogens, mold spores, harmful gases throughout the entire museum and add an additional layer of comfort and safety for our visitors and staff.

“We are very excited to be a leader with this new technology,” stated Setford. “It will add an additional layer of protection for both staff and visitors.”

In accordance with state guidelines, TAM will require the use of masks for staff and visitors 5 and older and strongly recommend masks for visitors under 4. Visitors will be spaced six feet (two meters) apart and will follow a dedicated path through the Museum. TAM will allow 50 visitors in the entire Museum at any one time.

To allow for enhanced cleaning, **Museum hours will change to 10 am - 5 pm Friday through Sunday.** The Museum Store will be open during museum hours and will limit visitors to 5 at a time. Temporarily, TAM’s Art Studio, café, and hands-on gallery interactives will be unavailable, as will access to the lockers and coat check.

To Visit TAM

- Advanced purchase of timed admission tickets can be made online at www.tacomaartmuseum.org.
- Wear a mask to enter and visit the Museum. Should you forget your mask, they will be available free of charge at the welcome desk.
- Leave coats and large bags at home if possible as coat check and lockers will not be available.
- Follow the predetermined one-way path through the Museum to help ensure compliance with visitor spacing and capacity limitations.
- Utilize the contactless and motion-activated hand sanitizer stations that will be available at various locations in the Museum.

All dates, plans, and policies are subject to change.

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 will feature 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.

TEMPORARY HOURS: Friday through Sunday 10 am to 5 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. Free admission every Thursday from 4 - 8 pm.

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