

TACOMA ART MUSEUM

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TACOMA ART MUSEUM PLANS SPRING REOPENING

Reopening Friday, April 16, 2021

April 2, 2021 (Tacoma, WA) — Plans are underway for **Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) to reopen to the public on Friday, April 16.**

Since closing March 13, 2020, and again on November 13, 2020, TAM staff has been hard at work creating a reopening strategy to provide a welcoming and safe environment for visitors. Following the recent shift to Phase 3 of the *Healthy Washington: Roadmap to Recovery* plan, procedures will be in place to offer an art respite and nearly contactless experience for visitors.

"We know community members are looking forward to having in-person access to museums again as these spaces are a source of solace and joy," says David F. Setford, TAM's executive director. "We are enthusiastic to welcome guests and members back into the Museum to explore refreshed galleries and brand-new exhibitions that present TAM's collection in exciting and engaging ways."

TAM galleries will be refreshed and open on April 16, with new exhibitions to showcase in person since debuting online. *South Sound Selects: Community Choices from the Collection*, which opened virtually in November 2020, broadens the curatorial voice at TAM by highlighting works from the Museum's collection as chosen by twenty-seven community members. TAM's newest exhibition, *Painting Deconstructed: Selections from the Northwest Collection* takes a deep dive into the art of painting by focusing on the core components that come together to create a finished image. We are also excited to feature new selections in the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Wing as part of *Metaphor into Form: Art in the Era of the Pilchuck Glass School*, including a new installation in the project space, *Glass as Canvas*.

Though TAM's doors will be open, its role in the community as a place for lively discussions, community celebrations, and educational opportunities will evolve. We will continue these activities in digital spaces through early May, with an intentional plan to transition to a mix of limited in-person and digital experiences, following public safety guidelines. Via TAM's website and social media, *TAM at Home* will continue to offer free at-home art-making activities, access to TAM's collection online, and other new programs.

"I am incredibly proud of the team at TAM. When confronted with the challenges of two closures in 2020, 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.

Maintaining a Healthy and Safe Environment

TAM has implemented additional air purification technology in addition to a robust, regular cleaning and sanitization of all surfaces, handles, and other frequently touched areas. This technology, installed in the ductwork of our existing HVAC system, is designed to work in concert with current filtration to assist in neutralizing and removing airborne pathogens throughout the Museum.

“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.”

Following state guidelines, TAM will require masks for staff and visitors ages 5 and older and strongly recommend masks for visitors under the age of 5. To further ensure the health and safety of our guests, TAM will limit its capacity to throughout the building and galleries, so there will be ample space to socially distance.

Museum hours will temporarily change to 10 am - 5 pm Friday through Sunday to allow enhanced cleaning. The TAM Store will be open during museum hours and will limit visitor capacity. Temporarily, TAM’s Art Studio, cafe, and hands-on gallery interactives will be unavailable, as will access to the lockers and coat check.

To Visit TAM

- Advanced reservation 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 lockers and coat check will not be available.
- 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 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.

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.

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