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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tacoma Art Museum Executive Director Announces Departure

TACOMA, WA (September 16, 2022) – The Tacoma Art Museum board of directors has accepted the resignation of David Setford, TAM’s executive director for the past four years.

Jeff Williams, board chair, said Setford left TAM for personal reasons. His resignation is effective immediately.

“Anyone who has met David knows he is a compassionate leader and a knowledgeable ambassador for the arts,” Williams said. “He helped TAM reach new members of our community through partnerships with local organizations, school districts and businesses and was instrumental in bringing the ground-breaking Kinsey Collection to Tacoma, all the while ensuring that TAM remains a space where all feel welcome.”

Williams and TAM’s senior leadership team will lead TAM while the board conducts a national search for Setford’s replacement.

Setford curated TAM’s successful 2019 exhibition *Monet, Renoir, Degas, and Their Circle: French Impressionism and the Northwest* and led the opening of the museum’s Benaroya wing in January 2019. He spearheaded *The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection* exhibition, working with community partners that deepened TAM’s cultural connections. Setford also led the creation of TAM’s new five-year strategic plan, vision and mission statement and steered TAM throughout the ups and downs of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before arriving at TAM in March 2018, Setford was executive director of the Spanish Colonial Art Society in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

TAM’s exhibitions and schedule will not be affected by the leadership change.

Visit [TAM’s website](#) for a full list of [exhibitions](#) and [events](#).

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About Tacoma Art Museum

Celebrating over 85 years, Tacoma Art Museum is the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region. TAM's mission is to transform our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future. TAM's collection contains more than 5,300 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. TAM is in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District, which consists of six museums, including the Museum of Glass, a leader and frequent partner.

Hours: Wednesday and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; FREE Neighborhood Nights every Thursday 5-8 p.m.

Admission: \$18 Adult, \$15 Senior (65+); free for TAM Members, children 18 and under, and active duty military, reservists, veterans and their families.

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