FACT SHEET

Opened
July 2002

Location
Thea Foss Waterway
1801 Dock Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Architects
Arthur Erickson
Nick Milkovich Architects Inc.
Thomas Cook Reed Reinvald
Architects PLLC

Building
79,000 square feet

Construction and Project Budget
$63 million

Website
www.museumofglass.org

Information
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The Museum of Glass provides a dynamic learning environment to appreciate the medium of glass through creative experiences, collections and exhibitions. Designed by acclaimed Canadian architect Arthur Erickson, the $48 million Museum engages audiences in the artistic process and serves as a symbol for the redevelopment of Tacoma, a historic and scenic city on the shores of Washington’s Puget Sound.

An immediately identifiable cultural landmark, the 79,000-square-foot building is Erickson’s first major art museum in the United States and features his trademark use of concrete integrated with glass in Modernist forms. Erickson’s exceptional ability to design large-scale contemporary buildings in response to their environment is exemplified in the Museum’s horizontal profile that ascends in a series of platforms from the banks of the Thea Foss Waterway to a rooftop plaza. The Museum’s most distinctive architectural feature, a tilted 90-foot-tall cone wrapped in stainless steel, punctuates the skyline and serves as an icon for the Pacific Northwest. Inspired by the wood burners of sawmills that once proliferated the region, the cone symbolizes the city’s transformation from an industrial to a cultural center.

The Museum houses 13,000 square feet of exhibition space, outdoor exhibition space, a 177-seat theater, a studio for educational programs, the Hot Shop Amphitheater, and a museum store and café, as well as a serene rooftop plaza with panoramic views of the city and waterfront.

The Museum exhibition schedule includes works by internationally known artists who illuminate trends in contemporary art. Clear, expert commentary in the form of interpretive text panels, docent-led tours and other programs ensure a Museum experience that is meaningful and engaging to visitors.

In the Studio, visitors of all ages may participate in interactive and creative hands-on learning activities taught by visual and performing artists. To enhance learning, outreach programs and active partnerships with regional schools place Museum resources in the hands of teachers and students.

Connecting the Museum to downtown Tacoma is the visually stunning Chihuly Bridge of Glass, a 500-foot pedestrian bridge with three installations by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly, one of the legendary pioneers in the Studio Glass Movement. The steel-and-glass bridge spans from the Museum rooftop to the downtown museum district, the Chihuly Bridge of Glass is a city initiative in collaboration with the Museum and the artist.

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