



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Glass Fest Northwest* Demonstrates Collaborative Relationship

The Museum of Glass and Tacoma Art Museum have entered into a collaborative relationship that will elevate the glass art experience for visitors in Tacoma. The two institutions will achieve this by working together to develop a preeminent museum and visitor experience related to the Studio Glass Movement and the artists involved in glassmaking.

At the core of the new arrangement is a commitment to strategic collaboration in collections, exhibitions, programming, and marketing offered by both museums. Debbie Lenk, Executive Director at Museum of Glass (MOG) discusses how the relationship between the two museums will change. "Our museums have always loaned each other art pieces, but with the addition of the new Benaroya collection at the Tacoma Art Museum, opportunities for collaboration will be increased. Now we will take it a step further and consult with each other as we secure new artwork, curate our exhibitions, and create our educational programming. The goal of the new relationship is really about bringing the community together around glass art, and ensuring we have a complementary story to share across the two institutions."

"We believe this new arrangement will result in a more robust and accessible offering for our visitors, and it will also enable us to maximize our marketing and promotion efforts," says Mark Holcomb, Interim Executive Director at Tacoma Art Museum. "On July 23, we will have our first opportunity to publicly share our collaborative spirit through *Glass Fest Northwest*, a community celebration of glass and the artists of our region."

*Glass Fest Northwest* puts glass art center stage on the plaza outside Museum of Glass. In addition to shopping for unique art, visitors will have the opportunity to watch live glassmaking demonstrations and spend the day enjoying music, entertainment, food, drink, and family fun activities. While the majority of the artists will be displaying and selling glass art, visitors will also find jewelry artisans, printmakers, wood workers, and more. Admission to MOG will be free for each visitor that provides a receipt from a purchase made with one of the Glass Fest artists.

The event will run from 12 – 5pm on Sunday, July 23.

### About Museum of Glass:

Located in Tacoma, Washington, Museum of Glass is a premier contemporary art museum dedicated to glass and glass making in the west coast's largest and most active museum glass studio. Opened in 2002, the Museum has established a reputation for hosting impactful and engaging artist residencies, organizing nationally traveling exhibitions, and creating unique programs for visitors while building a growing permanent collection chronicling the contemporary glass art movement. Museum of Glass is a non-profit organization sponsored in part by the City of Tacoma Arts Commission, ArtsFund, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, The Dimmer Family Foundation, and the Driscoll Foundation.



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### About Tacoma Art Museum:

Founded in 1935, Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in Tacoma's downtown with a mission of connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 4,700 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on continued view; the most significant museum 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.

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