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Museum of Glass Celebrates 15 Years and Ignites Community Focus on Glass Art

July 6, 2017 marks the 15 year anniversary for Museum of Glass, Tacoma's contemporary art museum dedicated to glass. The opening of Museum of Glass came at a time when Tacoma was looking for a way to revitalize its fading downtown. When Museum of Glass opened its doors in 2002, it joined Washington State History Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Children's Museum, and University of Washington as key players in the vision for a revitalized core, a move strongly supported by the city planners and inspired by the Museum's three founders, Dr. Phil Phibbs, Dale Chihuly, and George Russell. Today, two more museums have opened (LeMay America's Car Museum and Foss Waterway Seaport), University of Washington Tacoma is thriving, and the foresight of these progressive visionaries has become a reality.

Over the past 15 years, Museum of Glass has brought 313 visiting artists from 23 countries to our city, taught nearly 100,000 students about glass as an art form, and welcomed well over 2 million visitors through its doors. The Pacific Northwest is known world-wide as the center of the Studio Glass Movement, and Museum of Glass is proud to be an integral part of the growth and support for contemporary artists. Today, Museum of Glass continues to drive innovation through its creative programs, spectacular exhibitions, and access to the most skilled glass artists in the world.

"Being a part of Tacoma for more than 30 years, I saw the potential for the city next to the water. Museum of Glass helped the city fulfill that dream and when you add in the University of Washington's Tacoma campus, the other museums, and the Bridge of Glass as the "gate into the city", you have the makings of a dynamic city on the move. This unique combination of industrial economy, dynamic education, and world class art make Tacoma a fantastic place to live.", reflected Dave Zeeck, President and Publisher of the Tacoma News Tribune during a recent interview.

As a thank you for the ongoing support from the local community over the last 15 years, Museum of Glass is offering three new events:

On June 23, the Museum will host *Breakfast at the Cone: the Art of Business* as part of its continued commitment to the socio-economic vitality of the South Sound region. The event will be chaired by President and CEO of MultiCare, Bill Robertson. Robertson and the Museum staff have secured a powerful keynote speaker in Brandon Pedersen, Executive Vice President of Finance and CFO of Alaska Air Group. Pedersen's talk will provide an insightful take on the highly competitive airline business and how Alaska continues to stay on top. Closing the event will be the Museum's Board of Trustees Chair, Gail Weyerhaeuser, who will address how the Museum and Tacoma's entire Museum District contribute to a healthy, vibrant community. The event is expected to draw over 250 business leaders.

On July 6, the Museum will host a family-friendly birthday celebration, and you are all invited! Museum of Glass will offer free admission, sweet treats, games, live music, a scavenger hunt, a chance to design your own t-shirt, and the opportunity to contribute to a time capsule which will be opened on July 6, 2032. Inspired by the Museum's age, visitors will find 15% discounts on items in the Store, Café, and towards hands-on workshops. A membership purchased on July 6 will also be discounted by \$15. The celebration will run from 10am – 5pm.

On July 23, Museum of Glass and Tacoma Art Museum will host their inaugural *Glass Fest Northwest*, a celebration of glass and the artists of our region on MOG's waterfront plaza. This event will put glass art center stage by bringing together more than 25 local artists and artisans, along with live glassmaking demonstrations, food, drink, music, entertainment, 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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