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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUSEUM OF GLASS PARTNERS WITH TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER SCIENCE OF ART™ CLASSES TO ALL SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS

Tacoma, WA — Beginning in 2023, Museum of Glass in partnership with Tacoma Public Schools will offer every 6th grader a Science of Art™ field trip experience. The Museum of Glass Science of Art program was launched in 2003, with the goal of integrating the teaching of art and science in first-to-eighth-grade classrooms to create a fuller and more comprehensive understanding of the workings of our world.

This initiative was launched after a conversation between Dr. Josh Garcia, Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools; Debbie Lenk, Executive Director of Museum of Glass; and Susan Warner, Curator of

Education at Museum of Glass, during which Dr. Garcia expressed his comprehensive philosophy of exposure to experiences for all Tacoma Public Schools students. The Museum worked with the Tacoma Public Schools Curriculum and Instruction Department's Science lead teacher Jen Crump to align the 6th grade curriculum with science high-yield strategies and meet the needs of all learners.

“By blending art and science through hands-on experiences at Museum of Glass we hope students will connect with their passions and deepen their learning,” said Superintendent Garcia.

This ambitious initiative will bring over 2,000 6th graders to Museum of Glass to experience the organization's latest Science of Art curriculum, ***The Phenomena of Heat Transfer, Light Transmission, and the Tools That Make It Possible.***

The curriculum involves a student-centered focused exploration of phenomena revealed in the Museum of Glass Hot Shop, Galleries, and Education Studio. This experience is guided by Museum educators, docents, and teachers, with the goal of building knowledge in science and art by developing general ideas based on evidence that can help explain and predict phenomena. The Science of Art program is based on Washington State's Next Generation Science Standards and Visual Arts Standards.



“When we began the Science of Art program at Museum of Glass, we aimed to make a sustained, positive impact on the youth in our community. This new initiative with Tacoma Public Schools allows us to elevate that impact and ensure that Museum of Glass remains a resource for students throughout Tacoma”, said Debbie Lenk.



In 2010, Rhode Island School of Design began to “champion the addition of art and design to the national agenda of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education and research to develop STEAM as a model that would better prepare future generations to compete in the 21st-century innovation economy.” By this time, the Museum of Glass Science of Art program had served hundreds of students. And by 2022, this number has grown to over 10,000. With this new partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, Museum of Glass hopes to further elevate its impact on young people in the community.

“We are so excited to partner with Tacoma Public Schools. Our Science of Art program is invigorated and strengthened through our rigorous collaboration and the assimilation of the new science teaching standards and methodologies. This partnership will help elevate the Museum’s educational impact for years to come,” said Susan Warner.

More about Science of Art™

Established in 2002, Science of Art™ is a kindergarten through middle school program that teaches scientific principles, creative processes, and twenty-first century learning skills of teamwork, critical thinking, and applied problem solving. Lessons are designed to spark the imagination, motivating students to engage in lesson activities consisting of formal science and abstract art concepts.



In 2003, Museum of Glass partnered with the University of Puget Sound’s Physics Department to launch the Science of Art curriculum. Students and professors from University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University actively participated in instructing elementary and middle school students at the Museum. Over the past 20 years, the program has undergone several reinventions and transformations. In 2011, the curriculum was largely revised to meet the new Next Generation Science Standards. And in 2020, the curriculum was again revised to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through the creation of a comprehensive virtual model, which makes it a viable instrument on the international education platform. [Read more about Science of Art here.](#)

About Museum of Glass

Located in Tacoma, Washington, Museum of Glass is a premier contemporary art museum dedicated to glass and glassmaking 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 development of modern and contemporary glass. Museum of Glass provides an environment for artists and the public to ignite creativity, fuel discovery, and enrich their lives through glass and glassmaking.

Quick Facts

- Museum of Glass has displayed over 140 exhibitions since 2002, featuring glass art pioneers such as Dale Chihuly, Lino Tagliapietra, and Preston Singletary.
- Over 100,000 visitors explore the Museum each year.
- The Hot Shop hosts over 35 Visiting Artist Residencies each year.
- The Museum has engaged over 200,000 children through educational programs.
- 750 soldiers and veterans have been served through the Hot Shop Heroes program

Address: 1801 Dock Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Hours: 10am - 5pm, Wednesday - Sunday. Third Thursday of every month, 10am - 8pm.

Admission: \$18 - Adults; \$16 - Seniors (65+)/College Students (18+)/Military (Active and Veteran); \$10 - Children (6-18); Free - Children (under 6); Free - Museum Members; \$1/person; \$2/family - EBT Cardholders

About Tacoma Public Schools

Tacoma School District No. 10 is the third largest district in Washington state, serving approximately 30,000 children in kindergarten through grade 12. The District consists of over 60 sites, 35 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 7 high schools and 6 alternative learning centers and 5 administrative facilities. The District encompasses 56 square miles. The District has over 4,500 full and part time employees. Please visit the following web page for more information about the District: Tacoma Public Schools - Tacoma Public Schools (tacomaschools.org).

In addition to the Science of Glass experience for Tacoma 6th graders, Museum of Glass will also be partnering with the school district on two other programs. Middle School students are being invited this year to participate in an after-school program called Club Beyond. Different schools throughout the year will offer a session using the museum's Junior Curator Academy program taught by Museum staff. Finally, five high school students in the TPS Jobs 253 program will get an opportunity to explore their passion, engage in a museum curation experience, and receive stipends for their hard work.