

Summary of 2022 AMOCAT Arts Awards Nominations	
COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual	
Individual Nomination Name	
Anthony Dluzak	
Curtis Ashby	
Dave Wendleton	
Erik Hanberg	
Frances and Mario Lorenz	
Jamie kinoshita Brooks	
Kristina Baptiste	
Lucien Vedego	
Rosemary Ponnekanti	
Roxann Murray	
Steve La Berge	
Tamiko Nimura	
Thomas "Tom" Long	
COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN ORGANIZATION - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an organization	
Organization	
Art Battle Tacoma	
Brooks Dental Studio	
Grit City Magazine	
Real Art Tacoma	
Spaceworks	
Tacoma Light Trail	
ARTS PATRON - A community partner who significantly supports or contributes to the arts in Tacoma	
Patron	
Grit City Magazine (Sierra Hartman)	
Rebecca and Jack Benaroya	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual

Individual Nomination Name	Business (if applicable)	Briefly tell us why this individual deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this individual has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
<p>Anthony Dluzak</p>		<p>Over a period of eight years, Anthony organized and has continually urged the growth of a large community that rejoices in audience participation for the recognition of beloved cult cinema. He is one of the many unsung local heroes who diligently contributes to the community, motivated by his love for the cult genre. For him, Friday Night Frights is truly a labor of love. It is a project he will continue to pursue for no other reason than it enriches the experience of others.</p>	<p>Eight years ago, Anthony Dluzak saw a large hole in the Tacoma art scene. He knew there was a huge community of cinephiles who craved cult movies from the '70 and '80s. He knew this because he was part of that community. So he took it upon himself to orchestrate Friday Night Frights, a monthly showing of cult cinema. He has gathered sponsors from local businesses for support. He has gathered a wide talent pool of artists to create monthly art for the event. Friday Night Frights, aka FNF, is a profitable collaboration for the artists as their work sells heavily at FNF and event conventions. FNF is a large revenue generator for the Blue Mouse Theater, a co-op-owned theater. Heavily promoted on social media by photographs and art created for Friday Night Frights, the Blue Mouse Theater, the sponsors and the artists receive high recognition for their contributions. Anthony is beloved for his ongoing efforts by the community he supports and by the artists he has brought in this creative venture.</p>	<p>I was invited to be one of the artists to create movie poster art for Friday Night Frights.</p>
<p>Curtis Ashby</p>	<p>Curtis Ashby Art CurtisAshbyArt.com</p>	<p>Curtis Ashby deserves this recognition on behalf of the beautiful art he has blessed Tacoma and surrounding cities. Curtis grew up a shy person, afraid of talking to people outside of his daily life. Curtis's love of art has enabled him to talk to others about his artistic passion and encouraged them to display his art. Among his first public art, while he was still in high school, was a canvas painting and wall art in the Farelli's Pizza on 6th Avenue in Tacoma. Curtis enjoyed seeing others admire his work, which gave him confidence to continue with the public art journey. Curtis has developed as a person and artist, and now is extremely talkative about art and is able to understand verbal ideas and descriptions to transfer them into a visual display. Curtis was well on his journey of beautifying the City of Tacoma when the Pandemic of 2020 forced the Country to stay home. Businesses were closed and windows were covered with wood to protect the glass. Curtis worked with small businesses to decorated large blank areas that lined so many streets to add a glimmer of hope and joy into their life in these unusual times.</p>	<p>In 2016, Curtis was selected by the City of Tacoma to join the Tacoma mural roster. From 2016-2018 he created two murals for the city, including a 200 ft. long mural on South Tacoma Way for the Water Flume Line Trail Project. In the summer of 2019, he created a mural for the Tahoma Audubon Society which spans the entire length of the building. After completion of the mural, Curtis was awarded the Distinguished Service Community Award for his work. Spring of 2020, Curtis was selected by Spaceworks, a Tacoma city and chamber resource program, to be a part of their Rapid Response Mural Project. He painted the boarded-up windows of three different buildings in Tacoma. December of 2021, Curtis joined the Metro Parks Tacoma Arts & Heritage Council.</p> <p>Curtis has exhibited community outreach by approval from the Tacoma Arts Commission, Metro Parks Tacoma, City of Tacoma, Tahoma Audubon Society, businesses, and property owners to paint murals in Tacoma. Community engagement is displayed by the murals around Tacoma and the business associations he is affiliated. Curtis exhibits community involvement when he teaches the community how to paint such as the bird house event in association with the Tahoma Audubon Society.</p>	<p>Not only is Curtis my son, but he is also a very talented artist who has brightened up Tacoma and surrounding cities with his art. We are privileged to have his talent available for others to enjoy.</p>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual

Individual Nomination Name	Business (if applicable)	Briefly tell us why this individual deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this individual has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Curtis Ashby		Curtis holds two necessary elements to be an incredible artist: passion and patience. What sets him apart is that his patience and passion extends beyond his own work. He thrives in scenarios where he can share art and support others as they continue to create or they create their very first piece. He shows the same amount of enthusiasm to a child painting a birdhouse as he does to a career artist. He has a way of uplifting those around them through art by providing direction but celebrating unique ideas.	Curtis has shared his passion for art with a variety of businesses, government agencies, and organizations in and around Tacoma. I have never heard of him turning down a partnership (unless it is due to capacity), which shows that he chooses to engage with the community as a whole rather than limit himself to specific group. His dynamism has allowed the opportunity to work on large murals which showcase the beauty of the Northwest but also facilitates opportunity for the community to participate. Curtis has made painting a mural more than just adding color to a wall: he has hired apprentices (when possible) to provide opportunity for teenage artist to build their portfolio; he has taken the time with every interested bystander to talk about the project and welcome their input; and he has allowed some volunteers to literally "put their mark" on the mural even if it is painting the background or filling in the trees. I foresee more artist emerging from Tacoma in the future, artist that may have needed the confidence boost and support that Curtis provided when he taught a Master Class at Hunt Middle School or the Birdhouse Painting Class with the Tacoma Audubon Society.	Friend
Curtis Ashby		Curtis is a very self less community driven individual that wants nothing more to share his artistic talents with the city and giving everyone something to enjoy.	Curtis makes the city a brighter and more visually appealing place to look at with his well planned out murals around the city.	Acquaintance/ art
Curtis Ashby	Northwest til Death	Curtis Ashby deserves recognition not only for the thoughtfulness and beauty his art brings to Tacoma and beyond but also for his ability to connect art, nature, education and bring many different people together through his creativity. Curtis finds creative ways to work with local community members, organizations and businesses to bring accessibility to anyone interested in featuring his murals. Additionally, the vastness in size of his murals is impressive and his techniques and talent in creating large works of art deserves recognition. Curtis is adaptive in him mediums and what he is painting on and is also a wonderful collaborator - he has a strong vision and strong listening skills when working to bring his murals to life! Curtis is also a nature lover and artists and commits to creating as little waste as possible and using all materials to their fullest potential.	Curtis notices spaces that could benefit from public art, reaches out and finds a way to offer his art to people. He is innovative in his approach and creates community connections through art. Curtis also shares his time volunteering where he can to offer his knowledge and passion to help bring more art to the Tacoma community. Curtis is one of the most outreach and engagement focused artists I know and really goes the extra step to include people in his approach to art and encourage folks to embrace their creativity as well.	Curtis has done many mural and nature education events with my organization and other community partners.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual

Individual Nomination Name	Business (if applicable)	Briefly tell us why this individual deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this individual has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Curtis Ashby		Curtis's murals remind us of the natural beauty and wildlife we are surrounded by every day with vivid and beautiful murals that are popping up all around town.	Not only does he work hard to beautify the city, Curt partners with organizations like Point Defiance Zoo, and the Tacoma Audubon Society to paint birdhouses or sit on panels to spotlight other artists in our community. Furthermore he's always kind, gracious and generous with his skillset and wisdom.	We've worked at some events together and know each other through a similar circle of friends.
Curtis Ashby		Curtis is constantly doing his part in beautifying our wonderful city bringing both visually pleasing murals and showing off the regions wonderful bird population.	Making Tacoma more appealing one mural at a time.	Friend and admirer
Dave Wendleton		Dave works incredibly hard with local venues and event professionals to hold this event, including ensuring the livestream is broadcasting to expand the artist exposure internationally. Building a network of both artists and behind the scenes professionals, with both paid and volunteer positions.	By bringing Art Battle to Tacoma, Dave has secured a regular arts event that continues to bring new artists and art supporters to the area. Art Battle is a positive and friendly competition that builds a strong community of artists behind the scenes and continuously looks for new artists to participate. He procures local business sponsorship that helps support our artists through a variety of ways, including connecting artists to showcase their work in local businesses and additional projects that come through our connections.	He is my husband.
Erik Hanberg	KNKX, Channel 253 (We Art Tacoma podcast)	I have known Erik since 2008, and he has been an arts booster and community connector for all that time and longer. He has served in many capacities, from Metro Parks Commissioner to Grand Cinema board, design entrepreneur to nonprofit consultant, podcast host and producer to now working at KNKX. Specifically, I am thinking of his creation of the We Art Tacoma podcast, which features a diverse array of artists from every discipline, including emerging artists and newcomers to Tacoma. Erik has done his best to introduce as many Tacomans as possible to the arts, embracing every discipline and supporting artists both materially and intangibly.	One of Erik's best talents is his ability to create community—he is a true connector. In his capacity as a designer and board member, he has supported artists by commissioning artwork by Tacoma artists, introducing artists to other potential clients, volunteering at arts events (right down to schlepping carts and helping artists set up booths!) and spreading the word about artists' work through his many professional and personal connections. He brought this to the next level with the We Art Tacoma podcast, and drew on his deep connections with many different artists to broadcast our work to a wider audience. Because he knows so many artists personally, he knows our work intimately, and has a knack for telling the stories of our work and translating what we do for the wider community. I truly believe Erik is a linchpin in the Tacoma arts community, and his enthusiasm and outgoing nature has helped all of us make wider and deeper connections with one another.	I first met Erik in 2008 when he hired me to create illustrations for one of his clients. I developed a friendship with Erik and his wife Mary, and I now count them both among my closest friends in Tacoma.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual

Individual Nomination Name	Business (if applicable)	Briefly tell us why this individual deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this individual has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
<p>Frances and Mario Lorenz</p>		<p>Frances and Mario are a husband and wife team who have been organizing entertainment in Tacoma for 18 years and to my knowledge have received no formal recognition for their work. Everyone knows Frances and Mario.</p> <p>Their church, the Center for Spiritual Living has hosted the TRIPOD slideshows for about 3 years, which helps me see, up close, what they do for the community. Frances has been a minister there for 25 years. She also holds leadership posts with the Sister Cities groups and has been a key organizer with the Sister Cities Film Festival for 15 years. She recently created a peace vigil for Ukraine and International Day of Peace events.</p> <p>Mario is a professional entertainer who performs at the Proctor Arts Festival, Blueberry Fest, Maritime Festival and Ethnic Fest. He also holds positions as manager with the Hilltop Association, 6th Avenue, and the South Tacoma Business Organization. He and Frances have produced the holiday Dickens Festival at Stadium (18 years), the Hilltop Street Fair (6 years), the Dia de los Muertos 6th Ave Procession and vigil, and Playground Express concerts.</p> <p>These two have their hands on the pulse of Tacoma, adding to the vibrancy of the neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Because they organize so many events and attend many more than that, they know all the artists in town and this gives them endless resources and access to talent.</p>	<p>When I moved to Tacoma in 2001, they came to events I organized and made me feel welcome in the arts community. Over the years they have reached out to me, and sometimes hired me to participate in events.</p>
<p>Jamie kinoshita Brooks</p>	<p>Jamie kinoshita Brooks</p>	<p>Jamie Brooks is a committed supporter of artists and small business in Tacoma. With her show, Hindsight 2020, she celebrated the 17 artists that she has shown in her Brooks Dental Gallery throughout the years. It's rare to have a long lasting gallery showing local artist's work here in Tacoma. She hosts opening receptions for each artist with postcards, promotions, and fun events.</p> <p>Brooks offers samples and gift cards to her clients from local tea shops, locally owned restaurants, soap dispensaries. If you have a local business, Brooks supports you in any way she can.</p> <p>She's also an outstanding dentist.</p>	<p>I believe I answered this question above.</p>	<p>I have attended her art openings for years.</p>
<p>Kristina Baptiste</p>	<p>Juniper Clay</p>	<p>In recognition of her efforts with community building through the Potters Salon and, more importantly, her public facing art production that centers her ceramics on important social justice themes (ie, her BLM series and her most recent Juneteeth production release, part of a larger ten year project).</p>	<p>As a non-visual artist, I confess I had overlooked the way ceramics can contribute to important DEI conversations, and I have repeatedly been moved by Kristina's art. It is accessible, but inspiring and adds an important voice to the dialogue.</p>	<p>I first became aware of her art through the TAIP award a few years ago. I am just an all around fan, though I Have unfortunately not ever met her.</p>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual

Individual Nomination Name	Business (if applicable)	Briefly tell us why this individual deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this individual has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Lucien Vedego		Lucien Vedego has been an integral part of the artistic and metaphysical scene of Tacoma for many years. His work spans multiple medium and genres. Lucien has exhibited paintings and has a hand in curating art galleries all over Tacoma (at Alma Mater, among other places); he has taught art classes with sliding scale fees to people of all types; he has DJ'd, he has played music in multiples groups, always pushing himself into different sounds. His work crosses boundaries and cliques and social strata. He is informed and unpretentious. He releases music under the moniker Axi-Ohm. Lucien is a rare thing: A dedicated artist as well as a healer. He practices reiki and spirituality with the same seriousness with which he takes the making of his art. I can think of no one better for this award.	Lucien has played many music shows, DJ'd, danced, prayed; done ceremonies, healed folks. His network of people is far-reaching. He is a resource for people looking to connect with others. He has curated art galleries. He has taught art classes. He has shown his work publicly in multiple places. He is an honest intellectual force as well. An individualist. A thinker.	Lucien and I are friends and collaborated on an ambient orchestral music project in 2019. (Axi-Ohm's record "Everything is a Door".)
Rosemary Ponnekanti		Her work on both Oceanfest and the Tacoma Light Trail has brought much joy and community engagement around what makes Tacoma special. This work involves many hours of organizing and involvement and she does this with a giving spirit. Her commitment to the arts has been solidified since her days at the TNT.	See above [description to the left].	Community involvement. I don't know her personally.
Roxann Murray	www.atouchofwanderlustphotography.com	Roxann Murray has lived in the Puget Sound area for most of her life. She uses her spare time to document the natural beauty (...or the unnatural ugliness) of the Pacific Northwest with her camera, including in and around her home town of Tacoma. As a photographer, Roxann likes to find beauty in the little things (and big things) in nature, from up close enough to smell them photos of vibrant roses in the Point Defiance rose garden (or those in her own garden); to macro photos of dewdrops on fungi, shot while sprawled out, army-crawling style in the dirt at a marine reserve; and distance shots of local humpback whale at the Tacoma Dune Park. However, Roxann also uses her camera lens as a cultural, environmental, and social justice lens to capture and highlight for others to see the injustices here and across the Pacific Northwest. From photo- documenting environmental protests to social justice rallies, art, and speaking events, Roxann uses her camera eye to speak truth to what happens around her, and therefore the rest of us here too, while standing up for what is right as a local indigenous woman of power, talented art, and courageous voice.	Roxann uses photography to tell stories. Many are beautiful stories. A lot of those involve nature and candid views of people in social justice action, and close friends and family too. She was recently recognized by South Sound Magazine as a local photographer highlight. But she also tells horror stories with her photos. Stories of tragedy. Stories of capitalist avarice that destroys and hurts the beauty of nature, among many other things while claiming words like "progress". These are the photos that people don't like to see but need to see. These are the photos that city representation needs to see. Photos of ugly LNG tank lights polluting the night sky when there is supposed to be an endangered species aquatic luminary along Thea Foss Waterway. Photos of the silted and spoiled Puyallup estuary, continually engineered like an environmental Frankenstein's monster, or photos of beautiful Mt. Tahoma... blinded by smog. And it's great to see people gathered together to speak in the park. But they shouldn't have to be there doing such because protesting things like black lives and women's rights is getting really old. People like Roxann are there to continually tell such stories, good and bad, through photo.	Local artist, partner, friend

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual

Individual Nomination Name	Business (if applicable)	Briefly tell us why this individual deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this individual has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Steve La Berge		<p>I nominate him for the AMOCAT award because he has brought so much life to Tacoma's art scene, and has pulled along others with him in collaboration. He has worked closely with Rosemary Ponnekanti (Tacoma Light Trail), Alma Mater, and many non-profits such as Northwest Designer Craftsmen, the Puget Sound Revels, First Night's Wear White Party fundraiser, MoPop, and myself.</p> <p>His traveling sculptures are sometimes as high as 20' and in the case of the dragon on wheels, it also breathes fire. Others include a reclining love seat, a Venetian Gondola, a 16' rainbow, a slug-like sound chamber that is interactive and a 10' high heart on wheels and his famous space orb which has made appearances in over 20 local park sites.</p> <p>Steve involved 20 local artists in collaboration of the design of each of his oversized fiberglass tvs – another interactive sculpture measuring 20' tall. All of these creations include thousands of colored LED lights. With his work he has identified Tacoma as an art town and helped us cement our identity – on top of everything else, he is a delightful person to work with.</p>	<p>Steve's daytime job is insurance salesman, yet he has taught himself to create large fiberglass sculptures which house thousands of programmed LEDs. He has worked collaboratively with scores of local artists and is swift to give credit to others. Besides being a very good and imaginative artist, he always has outreach and community-building in mind.</p>	<p>I went with Steve and his wife Natalie to Burning Man, twice and helped build one of his sculptures.</p>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an individual

Individual Nomination Name	Business (if applicable)	Briefly tell us why this individual deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this individual has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
<p>Tamiko Nimura</p>		<p>Tamiko is dedicated to thoughtfully telling the histories and stories of our community so that we can learn, grow, and heal. She has organized free public programming (South Sound Day of Remembrance), literary readings, and other programs to bring more visibility to these histories.</p>	<p>Tamiko has been a co-organizer of the South Sound Day of Remembrance (in collaboration with the Washington State History Museum), commemorating the anniversary of the forced wartime eviction of Japanese Americans in Tacoma during WW2. This event is an opportunity for our community to reflect on the historical connections and parallels between past and present. Event programming has included a screening of a theater performance, poetry and literary readings, guided historical walks, and visual art.</p> <p>Tamiko Nimura, a creative nonfiction writer and public historian from Tacoma. She is the author of <i>Rosa Franklin: A Life in Health Care, Public Service, and Social Justice</i> (2019) and the co-author of a graphic novel, <i>We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration</i> (May 2021). She is currently working on a memoir, <i>Pilgrimage: One Japanese American Daughter's Journey through Grief, Memory, and History</i>. The daughter of a Japanese American wartime incarceree, Nimura's memoir explores the personal, historical, and psychological afterlife of Japanese American wartime incarceration.</p> <p>Tamiko is using her talents - both in literary form and in community activation - to help our community address and heal from trauma.</p>	<p>Tamiko is a 2021-22 TAIP fundee and has been very active in the Tacoma community.</p>
<p>Thomas Long</p>	<p>Real Art Tacoma</p>	<p>Thomas, a wonderful Tacoma resident, owns and operates Real Art Tacoma. An all ages music venue that is constantly hosting events, music related and not, to help support the community in Tacoma. Tom also has a print shop and helps individuals bring their clothing designs to life. Tom is constantly expanding and reaching out to the music community and other community components of Tacoma and offering his space and place of business so people can continue to expand the arts scene in Tacoma. Real Art is a non profit agency and Tom truly puts his heart and soul into that venue and space to make it safe, accessible, and to grow and support art in Tacoma.</p>	<p>Thomas hosts donation events for the community. Thomas also hosts multiple community events that brings in a variety of artists and art forms together and gives them a space and a voice. Tom runs an operates a non profit organization that solely focuses on making sure all ages, races, religions, etc have access to music and arts space regardless of financial ability. Tom puts his heart and soul into arts in the community.</p>	<p>I am a friend and a patron of his business.</p>
<p>Tom Long</p>	<p>Real Art</p>	<p>I moved here from New York and Tom runs a spot that makes it easy to make new like minded friends and promotes community. HC Lives.</p>	<p>Tom constantly is hosting musical events promoting the community to be together and giving a gathering place for people to spread their art and ideas</p>	<p>HC</p>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN ORGANIZATION - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an organization

Organization	Briefly tell us why this organization deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this organization has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
<p>Art Battle Tacoma</p>	<p>Art Battle Tacoma brings artists together in a friendly competition that pushes and challenges individual artists to create their best work in 20 minutes, in front of an audience. Art Battle brings together our community - both artists and art lovers - in an interactive art experience. The goal of Art Battle Tacoma is to help local artists gain exposure and opportunities.</p>	<p>Art Battle Tacoma holds a community art competition every other month. Dave and Susannah are constantly promoting their artists, art battle, and additional opportunities and events for artists. Artists connect with each other during events, through online groups, and during additional events provided by Art Battle, including the TAG festival coming up this month in Tacoma and Meeker Days in Puyallup. We also maintain a list of businesses who are willing to display and rotate local artists work.</p> <p>Art Battle Tacoma provides exposure for artists that potentially reaches an international audience. Our state champion went on to win the US National competition and is now the "best live painter in the United States" and will compete at the international finals in Tokyo. One of our artists was seen at the state finals and was offered a commission to live paint the new Seahawks players during the draft event.</p> <p>Art Battle Tacoma is an event that connects artists with patrons, other artists, and a positive art community experience.</p>	<p>I run this organization with my husband.</p>
<p>Brooks Dental Studio</p>	<p>Brooks Dental Studio has been a wonderful nontraditional exhibition space for artists of all media and backgrounds. Jamie Brooks, as the leader of the studio, has expanded the exhibition resumes of darn near every artist in this town, has been a huge patron of individual artists' work, and has commissioned artists for numerous projects for the studio and around the neighborhood.</p>	<p>Brooks Dental Studio has hosted more than two dozen solo and group artist shows since it opened, exhibiting artwork from diverse artists and many different points of view. Rather than a traditional gallery setting, Brooks Dental Studio is an unexpected place to show artwork that is surprisingly effective (as patients have to spend quite a lot of time in those chairs looking at the artwork!). In addition, the studio has hosted many gatherings and receptions, and promoted artists by printing postcards and other ephemera. As a result the studio helps keep downtown Tacoma vibrant, and keeps challenging Tacomans to look for art everywhere they look.</p>	<p>I have exhibited at Brooks Dental several times over the years (I had a solo show in 2014 and have been in several group shows over the years)</p>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN ORGANIZATION - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an organization

Organization	Briefly tell us why this organization deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this organization has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Grit City Magazine	Grit City Magazine isn't a typical magazine, making it Tacoma's unique source for self-reflective stories. Grit City Magazine has been publishing online content since 2017, and print magazines since 2018. Editor-in-chief Sierra Hartman and editor Sara Kay are constantly working to produce the best work to illuminate Tacoma and its community, and have found the perfect balance between history, culture, and art. The magazine supports and features local creatives of all sorts: writers, speakers, illustrators, poets, photographers, painters, and anyone else who has something to share with our community.	Grit City Magazine also uses Instagram and Facebook to share the stories of Tacoma and its local creatives. They also dedicate time to addressing issues, while elevating voices of those who are affected by them, while highlighting the art they produce in Tacoma. They don't shy away from supporting BIPOC and LGBTQ+ locals. The print editions feature local artists ranging from illustrators to muralists, writers, painters, and many more. It's artistically put together by the Rotator Creative family, to best highlight stories and important messages.	Rotator is a close partner and huge fans of Grit City Magazine.
Real Art Tacoma	Real Art promotes artistic creation and sharing that art together, it builds community	Music shows allowing people to share their art	Hardcore internet
Real Art Tacoma	They are one of few all ages venues for music, arts and local vendors to showcase their talents & find connections within the community. They do the most when it comes to making sure bands, vendors & patrons are taken care of and feel supported.	Real art & Tom are always looking for ways to help the community, whether it be thru pop ups, fundraisers or shows. They love helping local musicians find a space they can blossom in and are true founders and supporters of a local music scene that sorely needs them. They work mostly on a volunteer basis and have so much interaction with truly all ages in Tacoma.	Friend & patron
Real Art Tacoma	Real Art Tacoma is a 501c3 organization that is an all ages arts and music space. An all ages music venue that is constantly hosting events, music related and not, to help support the community in Tacoma. Real Art is owned by a non white male which I feel brings a lot to Tacoma. Tom and Real Art also has a print shop and helps individuals bring their clothing designs to life. Tom is constantly expanding and reaching out to the music community and other community components of tacoma and offering his space and place of business to artists and musicians.	Real Art Tacoma is a 501c3 organization that is an all ages arts and music space. An all ages music venue that is constantly hosting events, music related and not, to help support the community in Tacoma. Real Art is owned by a non white male which I feel brings a lot to Tacoma. Tom and Real Art also has a print shop and helps individuals bring their clothing designs to life. Tom is constantly expanding and reaching out to the music community and other community components of tacoma and offering his space and place of business to artists and musicians.	I frequent events at Real Art
Real Art Tacoma	Real art, art is in the name, music and art promotes community growth and helps people fee inclusive. Safe cool place for all	Lots of events that promote artistic creation	Hardcore twitter

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN ORGANIZATION - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an organization

Organization	Briefly tell us why this organization deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this organization has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Real Art Tacoma	Real Art Tacoma is an invaluable hub for both local and national musical acts. The owners, employees and volunteers of Real Art work tirelessly to promote the music scene in Tacoma and create a safe space for all ages. The venue and individuals working there are always trying to find new ways to engage with the community and make the venue into a gathering space for all.	Real Art Tacoma hosts live events for both local and national musical acts. This creates opportunity for community members to engage with a world of music and arts. Without a venue to host concerts and arts events, there would no such events. Real Art constantly works to be an integral part of its community and it is evidenced by how much the owners care about music and how much they care about Tacoma.	I have attended shows at Real Art many times
Spaceworks	Spaceworks began as a program of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce to mitigate the appearance of blight in downtown Tacoma by engaging artists in activating empty storefronts. Since that time Spaceworks has grown to become an organization that has fostered the careers of scores of artists and creative businesses, predominantly artists and business owners who are women and/or BIPOC, in Tacoma. Most recently, Spaceworks leapt in when trouble popped up. Over the course of the past two years, anger following the death of George Floyd and the pandemic stressed us all, artists and businesses faced economic hardship, and many businesses (particularly those owned by people of color) had windows (often repeatedly) broken and boarded up. Almost immediately, Spaceworks called on its networks and provided compensation for local artists to utilize boarded up storefronts and construction sites as canvases for art that validated, comforted, delighted, and inspired us.	Spaceworks has an ever-expanding network of local artists who are able to quickly and skillfully respond to local interest in community public art (particularly 2D art like murals). These artists are available to be called-upon when an opportunity is offered for temporary (as on a boarded up window) or a more permanent placement (as with a recent project of creatively painted signage on street drains to discourage dumping of oil into the bay). Utilizing a clear cost analysis tool, Spaceworks is able to work directly with stakeholders like building owners to help them view portfolios of work, select an artist, and understand cost projections. At the same time, Spaceworks coordination ensures that the vision of a selected artist reflects the needs, aspirations and goals of the neighborhood and the community. Spaceworks is quite literally building arts into our daily lives.	I have been a member of the Spaceworks Steering Committee for 4 years.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BY AN ORGANIZATION - Community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma by an organization			
Organization	Briefly tell us why this organization deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this organization has exhibited community outreach, engagement, and involvement in the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Tacoma Light Trail	Tacoma Light Trail started in December 2020 - when the pandemic was in full swing and our community was in the depths of isolation coupled with a very dark and cold winter. Tacoma Light Trail was an idea to provide our community with a reason to get out and feel like a part of the community again, in a very safe and physically isolated way. The organizers assembled a walkable/bikeable/drivable "trail" of light-based art, coupled with sound art, that was meant to delight and bring a smile to Tacoma when practically no other art forms were available to experience live and in-person.	Tacoma Light Trail started as the vision of Rosemary Ponnekanti in 2020 and has since grown to a small team of dedicated creatives who are working together to create a lively and fun experience for all ages. The event has run 2 years so far - during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic - and is truly a ray of light for Tacoma. The event feature a wide variety of light-based art - from sculptures to projections to installations and more. And each site is paired with a recording of music or poetry or other sound-based art, turning this in to a multi-media experience, accessible through a QR code. The event is free and ongoing every evening for several weeks. And, in 2022, they added on free live weekend programming as well - live music, circus performers, dance, and more. Their goal is "To uplift and unify our community during dark times." and they have definitely succeeded in that.	Tacoma Light Trail is a Community Arts Projects fundee and I have been on the tour two years now.

ARTS PATRON - A community partner who significantly supports or contributes to the arts in Tacoma

Patron	Briefly tell us why this patron deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this patron has significantly supported or contributed to the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
<p>Grit City Magazine (Sierra Hartman)</p>	<p>GCM [Grit City Magazine] has a devotion to sharing Tacoman’s life stories in an artistic way and raising up those in the creative community. Their focus draws out the artistry of local creatives of all mediums. Giving creators the opportunity to be published can be very beneficial to artists' careers, and it helps the community discover their talents.</p>	<p>Grit City Magazine has a very strong focus on local stories, with a significant focus on finding local artists to tell those stories through their own personal lens. Their social media presence helps share and highlight artists’ work, and their web stories include many guest writers and artists as well. Alongside promoting locals through their social media, their print copies usually feature a separate 11’x7’ print piece of the featured artist, which helps promote their content. They listen to the community and what they like and want to see, while still introducing ideas that people may not be too familiar with, enhancing people’s knowledge of what’s going on in Tacoma.</p>	<p>Rotator is a close partner and huge fans of Grit City Magazine.</p>

ARTS PATRON - A community partner who significantly supports or contributes to the arts in Tacoma

Patron	Briefly tell us why this patron deserves recognition.	Briefly describe how this patron has significantly supported or contributed to the arts in Tacoma.	How do you know about this nominee?
Rebecca and Jack Benaroya	Rebecca and Jack Benaroya deserve to be recognized for their gift of a new wing and the art to fill this wing to the Tacoma Art Museum. Bebecca and Jack Benaroya have been nominated for the arts patron awards several times, but the Tacoma Arts Commission thought it would be better to wait until the new wing opened to give them the award. Then the pandemic came along, and everything came to a stop. The new wing opened over three years ago, but it will continue to enhance the arts community and give access to artworks for decades to come to the citizens of Tacoma. Just because this happened three years ago is no reason that Rebecca and Jack Benaroya should not be honored for their wonderful gift to the Tacoma Art Museum and to the people of Tacoma.	Rebecca and Jack Benaroya donated 9.2 million dollars to the Tacoma Art Museum for the construction of a new wing to the museum. This new wing added 6,860 square feet to the existing structure. 4550 square feet of this new wing was available for display of artworks. This increased the display space of the museum by 25%. Not only did they donate the funds for the new wing, but they also donated 353 works of art for possible display in the wing. As part of the gift, they also established an endowment for the care of the collection and a curatorial position. This wing opened to the public on January 19, 2019. Because of this gift the Tacoma Art Museum now has one of the top five collections of studio glass in the nation.	I severed on the Tacoma Arts Commission during the time that the new wing was being constructed.