



FACT SHEET

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. The Museum has established a reputation for hosting impactful and engaging artist residencies, organizing and exhibiting nationally traveling exhibitions, and creating unique programs for visitors, all while building a growing permanent collection chronicling the development of modern and contemporary glass.

Mission

Museum of Glass ignites creativity, fuels discovery, and enriches lives through glass and glassmaking.

Audience

Museum of Glass welcomes over 100,000 total visitors each year. Museum of Glass has programs that minimize financial barriers, such as free library passes, EBT reduced admissions, free student admission, free summer admission for Military families, and special free days and evenings.



2022 Glass Art Society Conference

Through Field Trip Fridays and school tours, Museum of Glass hosts over 5,500 students each year. Additionally, through the Science of Art program, the Museum engages another 2,500 students with a curriculum that focuses on scientific principles, creative processes, and twenty-first century learning skills of teamwork, critical thinking, and applied problem solving.

Through workshops, the Museum sees over 1,800 visitors a year get hands-on experience with glass.

750 soldiers and veterans have been served through the biannual Hot Shop Heroes eight-week glassblowing course.

Museum of Glass Building and Architecture

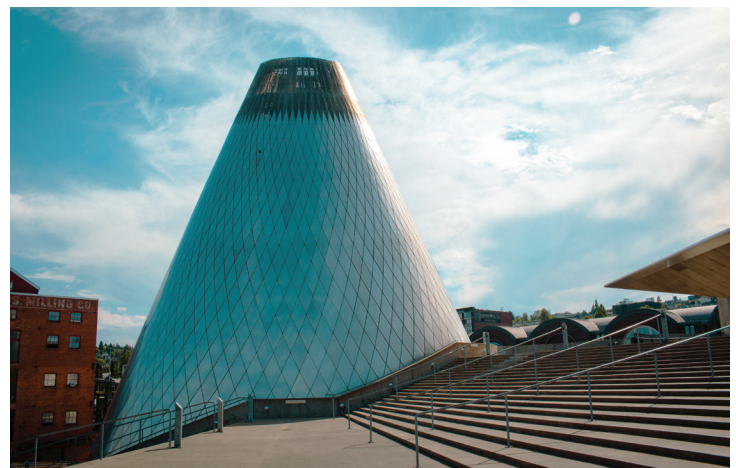
Architects

Arthur Erickson

Nick Milkovich Architects Inc.

Thomas Cook Reed Reinald Architects PLLC

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-squarefoot 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.

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.

Curatorial and Collections

Museum of Glass has displayed over 140 exhibitions since 2002, featuring glass art pioneers such as Lino Tagliapietra and Preston Singletary. 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.

The galleries at Museum of Glass are dedicated to both temporary exhibitions, as well as works from our Permanent Collections that feature twentieth and twenty-first-century glass. Our exhibitions span a wide range of topics and convey the meanings and motivations of diverse artists with the help of our Curatorial Team. Furthermore, exhibitions at Museum of Glass aim to highlight the diversity inherent to the material of glass and glassmaking techniques, and engage audiences who are unfamiliar with the art form.

The Robert M. Minkoff Foundation Collection is the result of the decades of patronage and support of Robert M. Minkoff. Minkoff was a long-time Museum of Glass Trustee and the Museum's first Trustee Emeritus. He created the Robert M. Minkoff Foundation to promote understanding, education, appreciation, and overall success of the glass arts. His extraordinary collection is the result of a wide-ranging interest in glassmaking techniques and resulted in meaningful relationships with artists that were built on mutual friendship, and support of their artistic vision. The over 400-piece collection was gifted to the Museum shortly before Minkoff passed away in 2020. The collection illustrates the extraordinary diversity of glass as an artistic medium and represents the relationships that Minkoff cultivated in his support of artists and artmaking.



Maestro Alfredo Barbini: Nature, Myth, and Magic



Education

In the Education 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. Our programs include:

- Blow Your Own Workshops
- Glass Fusing Workshops
- Mosaic and Slumping Workshops
- Family Day Hands-On Crafts
- Kids Design Glass™
- Junior Curator Academy
- Science of Art
- Field Trip Fridays
- Hot Shop Heroes™



In the Community and Accessibility

Museum of Glass is proud to partner with organizations in the region to enable greater access and exposure to the arts. Some of our longstanding partnerships include:

- Hilltop Artists
- Tacoma Museum District
- Slater Museum of Natural History at University of Puget Sound
- Tacoma Public High Schools

Museum of Glass is \$1/person; \$2/family for EBT Cardholders.

The Museum is open late the Third Thursday of each month — with free admission from 5–8pm.



Museum of Glass is a Blue Star Museum. Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families.

Tacoma Public Library offers an Art Access Pass granting free admission to Museum of Glass.

College students receive free admission to Museum of Glass each Sunday with their valid student ID.

Contact Information

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