



TACOMA
ART
MUSEUM



Black Lives Matter Mural Coming Soon to Tollefson Plaza

Community members invited to help paint the artist-led, community-informed public art project in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement

Tacoma, WA, June 15, 2022 – A vibrant new mural will soon grace the Tollefson Plaza steps in downtown Tacoma, honoring the Black Lives Matter movement with a design representing community input and participation.

Artist Dionne Bonner is leading the [BLM Mural Project Tacoma](#), with support from local artists Kenya Adams, Gwen Jones, Charles Taylor and Breyahna Monet. The mural is being created in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and the local Black community informed the design through online surveys and in-person focus groups. This public art piece is the result of a months-long collaborative process between the City of Tacoma's Human Rights Commission and the Tacoma Art Museum, with funding support from the City of Tacoma, the Tacoma Arts Commission and Tacoma Creates.

"Using creativity to bring people together and make a positive impact is one of the most fulfilling things I can do as an artist," Bonner said. "This mural draws from Tacoma's past and imagined future to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history."

The City's Human Rights Commission's Racial Justice and Equity Committee proposed creating a mural to signify that Tacoma supports Black lives and the Black Lives Matter movement. This mural will encourage Tacoma residents to recognize the hardships suffered by people of color to achieve equity while at the same time continue to challenge us to persevere in unity toward racial justice.

"We're proud to partner with the artists, the Tacoma Art Museum and community leaders as work continues on establishing this new mural recognizing the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement and honoring our shared efforts to achieve progress for our Black communities," said Mayor Victoria Woodards. "With the prominence of this location, it is our hope that this mural will inspire deeper community conversation and engagement while showing our Black communities that their lives matter in Tacoma."

Community Painting Sessions Planned for July (weather permitting)

The public is invited to paint parts of the mural. All ages and skill levels are welcome, and no prior experience is necessary. Volunteers will help guide participants. The project start date is contingent on dry weather conditions. Visit the BLM Mural Project Tacoma website to learn more and sign up for updates on volunteering, participating in community paint days and general project news: tinyurl.com/BLMMuralTacoma.



Website: tinyurl.com/BLMMuralTacoma

Email: blmmuralproject@gmail.com

City of Tacoma Contact: Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist, rebecca.solverson@cityoftacoma.org