

ARLIS/NA NW CHAPTER
WINTER/SPRING MEETING
FEB 13-15, 2004.

Several ARLIS NW Chapter members and guests travelled from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alberta to attend the annual winter/spring meeting, hosted by Sharon Winters, Resource Center Coordinator for the Tacoma Art Museum, on Feb 13-15, 2004. The business meeting, presentations and luncheon were all held in the stunning new Tacoma Art Museum designed by New Mexico architect Antoine Predock (<http://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/>).

Following the business meeting, Dr. Julie Nicoletta, Univ. of Washington in Tacoma, gave an illustrated talk on Tacoma's history and landmark buildings. Downtown Tacoma, as with many other North American cities, became very rundown with the growth of suburban shopping malls. In the mid-1990's the handsome beaux-arts Union Railway Station (1911) was converted for use as a courthouse, sparking a revival in the downtown area. The government took over many older warehouses and office buildings, and in 1997, the University of Washington Tacoma campus moved to the historic centre of the city. The campus occupies several renovated heritage buildings and new buildings designed to fit in with the character of the area. The University administration encourages mixed use of the older buildings, with retail on the ground floor and offices above. An LRT line was recently installed and a new convention centre is under construction a few blocks from the campus. The new art museum and Museum of Glass (<http://www.museumofglass.org/>) have also added to the revitalization of this historic area.

Our second speaker, Brian Kamens, demonstrated the Tacoma Public Library's *Tacoma & Pierce County Building Index* database (<http://www.tpl.lib.wa.us/v2/NWROOM/Build.htm>), based on the Pierce County Buildings Index card file. Conversion of the card file is ongoing, with several thousand entries already converted. The database includes every mention of a building from two Tacoma daily newspapers from 1883 to 1945. Entries in the database are linked to the NW Room & Special Collections historic photographs collection.

After the chapter meeting, we had a guided tour of Tacoma Art Museum and the *Bill & Melinda Gates Art Resource Center* research centre & library, operated primarily by volunteer staff. The conference attendees each received a Valentine's Day gift bag with several art monographs and other materials. We also visited the new Museum of Glass/International Center for Contemporary Art, designed by Canadian architect Arthur Erickson. A unique "bridge of glass" crosses the railway tracks, connecting the museum with the downtown core and doubling as a showcase for glass art works donated by Dale Chihuly. Chihuly is originally from Tacoma, and has been very supportive of his home town. A main feature of the Glass Museum is an enormous glass blowing studio topped by Erickson's distinctive funnel shaped dome (echoing Mt. Ranier in the distance) where visitors can watch glass artists in action.

Saturday evening, we gathered for dinner and a social, graciously hosted by Sharon Winters at her home. On Sunday, there was a guided tour of the University of Washington and the historic downtown area. The University Library is located in a historic industrial building. A focal point of the library is a bright and airy reading room decorated with a large Chihuly glass sculpture suspended from the ceiling.

This all too brief introduction to Tacoma's history and culture proved that Tacoma is definitely worth a return visit. Our next meeting is planned for the weekend of Nov. 19-21 at the new Seattle Public Library.

(submitted by Carole Goldsmith, Simon Fraser University Library)

The ARLIS/NA NORTHWEST CHAPTER invites you...

... to its Winter Meeting, Feb. 13-15, 2004, in Tacoma, Washington. *The Art of Northwest Living*, our meeting's theme, is appropriate for a city that has emerged as a cultural arts hub amidst the natural beauty of the region. With Mt. Rainier as its backdrop, Tacoma is the home of several important museums designed by famous contemporary architects as well as the site of many distinctive renovation and restoration projects. Among featured speakers is [Dr. Julie Nicoletta](#) (Univ. of Washington, Tacoma), author of *The Architecture of the Shakers* (Norton, 1995) and *Buildings of Nevada* (Oxford, 2000). Sharon Winters, Resource Center Coordinator, Tacoma Art Museum will host our meeting at the new museum

PROGRAM

Friday, Feb. 13 (Dinner TBA)

Saturday, Feb. 14 (Tacoma Art Museum)

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Meet & Greet
10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	Chapter Business Meeting
10:45 a.m.-12:00 a.m.	<i>Tacoma's Landmarks</i> , Dr. Julie Nicoletta, Univ. of Washington, Tacoma
12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.	<i>The Tacoma Building Database</i> , Brian Kamens, Tacoma Public Library
2:15 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	* Museum visits
7:00 p.m.	Dinner, TBA

Sunday, Feb. 15

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Univ. of Washington Campus
12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m	* Museum visits

Museum venues: Tacoma Art Museum, Museum of Glass, Washington State Historical Museum

REGISTRATION

- Anyone interested in the topics is welcome to attend. Please forward this message to interested parties.
- There will be a registration fee of \$15 USD payable on site. RSVP by February 6.
- We will follow up with inquiries about dinner interests and arrangements for Friday and Saturday evening.
- **RSVP by e-mail or phone, by February 6 to:**
Ed Teague
<ehteague@darkwing.uoregon.edu>
541-345-1954

LODGING

- The Sheraton Tacoma has a special rate for meeting attendees who reserve by January 31, 2004.
- Single or double room is \$99 + tax (\$112.37/night). We have 10 rooms blocked at this rate for the nights of Feb. 13 and 14.
- Book through Carmen McIntyre (253-591-4110) or carmen.mcintyre@sheratontacoma.com and note that you're with ARLIS/NW. Map of

Sheraton & nearby venues

TRANSPORTATION

- Tacoma is easily accessible by plane, [train](#), and automobile.
- Easy [light rail connections](#) to the hotel and art museum are available from the train and transit stations.
- [Express buses](#) are available from the airport.
- For more travel info, check out the Visitors section, [Tacoma Visitors Bureau](#). Conference venues and hotel are all in walking distance of each other.

CONTACTS

For more information about local arrangements:

Sharon Winters, Resource Center Coordinator, Tacoma Art Museum
<mailto:swinters@nventure.com>

IMPORTANT LINKS

- Museum of Glass/Intl. Museum of Contemporary Art. <http://www.museumofglass.org/>
- Sheraton Tacoma. <http://www.sheratontacoma.com/>
- Tacoma Art Museum. <http://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/>
- Tacoma Visitors Bureau. <http://www.tpctourism.org/>
- University of Washington, Tacoma. <http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/>
- Washington State History Museum. <http://www.wshs.org/>