



Media Contact: Kate Albert Ward, Hilltop Artists
Email: kward@hilltopartists.org
Tel. 253.571.7670

**‘Hilltop Artists Day’ at Museum of Glass
to Celebrate Tacoma’s Art and Community**

April 23, 2017
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TACOMA, Wash. — Hilltop Artists is pleased to announce ‘Hilltop Artists Day’ at Museum of Glass on Sunday, April 23 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thanks to the generosity of Dale and Leslie Chihuly, the event is **free** for all youth ages 18 and under and proceeds from the adult admissions will be donated directly to Hilltop Artists.

Dale Chihuly cofounded Hilltop Artists in 1994 and has remained a steadfast supporter ever since. Hilltop Artists’ tuition-free programs provide youth, ages 12 – 20, with glass art instruction and adult mentors focused on increasing students’ academic and interpersonal success. The ongoing partnership between Hilltop Artists, Chihuly Studio, and the Museum of Glass serves to strengthen the glass community and exemplifies a remarkable collaboration in the arts on behalf of our youth.

With the theme *A Color Beyond Imagination*, the event on April 23rd commemorates the incredible past 10 years of Hilltop Artists, along with launching the organization into its next chapter.

After a decade-long career with the organization, the event honors outgoing Executive Director Kit Evans and the many accomplishments that Hilltop Artists has achieved under her leadership. Highlights from Evans’ tenure include: growing the number of students served annually to over 650 students a year; adding programs Arts Connect and AC2, serving girls in the juvenile justice system and those in foster care; and establishing annual opportunities such as a student ambassador program to Tacoma’s Sister City Biot, France and Visiting Artist Residency at Museum of Glass.

“Hilltop Artists recognizes that art serves as an intervention in students’ lives, giving them a new sense of themselves and their community,” Angel Blanford, Hilltop Artists Board President says. “The event will not only celebrate Kit, it will give families the opportunity to explore and engage

with glass art. They will get to experience the impact that Hilltop Artists has had on our students' lives here in Tacoma.”

'Hilltop Artists Day' signifies the leadership transition between Kit Evans and her successor, Dr. Kimberly Keith. Keith, a Tacoma-native with deep roots in the arts, education, youth advocacy, equity and social justice, will officially start as Executive Director at Hilltop Artists on May 1st.

'Hilltop Artists Day' kicks off at 1 p.m. with Stomp Rockets by the Tacoma Astronomical Society. The event also features family-friendly activities, local entertainment, Hot Shop demonstrations by students and alumni, and much more.

###

About Hilltop Artists

Established in 1994 with the help of Dale Chihuly, Hilltop Artists is a 501(c)3 non-profit, tuition-free glass arts program that provides classes and individualized instruction to over 650 students, ages 12 to 20, each year. Through the program, young people have an opportunity to learn the art of glassblowing, mosaics, fused glass and beadwork. Hilltop Artists serves a diverse group of youth and is especially effective with young people who are searching for ways to connect and belong.

Hilltop Artists mission “Using glass arts to connect young people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds to better futures.”

For more information on Hilltop Artists and 'Hilltop Artists Day,' visit: <http://hilltopartists.org/>

Photo Credits

More photos available upon request

1. [Hilltop Artists students, David and Julian, make a vase at Museum of Glass. Image courtesy of Lisa Monet Photography](#)
2. [Dale Chihuly, Kit Evans, and Hilltop Artists students watch James Mongrain on the floor of the Museum of Glass hot shop](#)