



**Jan. 16, 2019**

**Statement on rental practices:**

Tacoma Arts Live is a nonprofit 501c3 arts organization with an expansive business umbrella:

- Operating one of the largest and most highly regarded arts education programs in the Western United States with outputs including the Civil Rights Legacy Tour (currently performing an adaptation of the story of Ruby Bridges), education matinees, year-round Conservatory classes both onsite and in Tacoma's schools, and the social-emotional LENS Project, which is offered in four regional school districts
- Presenting a diverse array of events including Hands Up Playwrights Festival, Black Lives Matter: A Conversation, Audra McDonald, Dan Rather, and many, many more
- Acting as a landlord and peer to seven Resident Arts Organizations: Tacoma City Ballet, Symphony Tacoma, Northwest Sinfonietta, Puget Sound Revels, Tacoma Concert Band, Tacoma Youth Symphony, and Tacoma School of the Arts, providing them with lower than market rate access to a professional Box Office, Front of House team, and a Union Stage Crew.

These parts of our work as a nonprofit serving the greater South Sound reflect our mission of "energizing community through live performance," and our values of:

- Openness (staying transparent and eager to collaborate)
- Joy (celebrating our humanity)
- Courage (smart risk-taking, learning, changing)
- Diversity (reflecting our community onstage and off)
- Inclusiveness (inviting broad access, building strong relationships)
- Stewardship (honoring the legacy we inherit, nurturing the future)

Outside of our core work as a 501c3 arts nonprofit, we are also under contract with the City of Tacoma in order to manage and provide accessible access to clients wishing to rent its venues: Pantages Theater, Rialto Theater, and Theater on the Square.

As part of this contract with the City of Tacoma, we must rent the venues in a manner that adheres to the regulations of a government agency. This includes upholding the constitution, in particular, the first amendment, which protects the right to free speech. Acting on behalf of the municipal entity we are in contract with in upholding the first amendment, we will not and cannot discriminate against any client who wishes to rent these publicly owned buildings, no matter how odious or offensive the content of their performance.

Through our programming as a nonprofit, we hope to provide a space for community members of opposing viewpoints to convene in peaceful, civil discourse, in the broad interest of encouraging social justice and a healthy democracy.