

**For Immediate Release**

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***Chihuly Garden and Glass Partners with the Office of Arts & Culture in Support of the Mayor's Arts Awards***

**Seattle** - Chihuly Garden and Glass continues its partnership with the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture in support of the Mayor's Arts Awards. As part of a five-year agreement, Chihuly Garden and Glass will work with community partners to select a local, emerging artist to design the awards each year. Both Chihuly Garden and Glass and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture are proud to announce that the 2017 Mayor's Arts Awards will be created by artist Nao Yamamoto.

"Our partnership with Seattle Office of Arts & Culture further underscores our mission of empowering and supporting emerging artists in the Pacific Northwest," said Michelle Bufano, executive director, Chihuly Garden and Glass. "We live in a region that is known for its rich glass art community. These awards present an exciting opportunity to showcase the wide range of talented artists who work in the medium of glass."

This year's award design is part of Yamamoto's *Ripples* series, which resembles large, vibrant colored teardrops, and includes intricately placed handmade glass beads that represent ripples in water. Her design pulls inspiration from the Pacific Northwest as she visited five local bodies of water, incorporating the colors and textures she experienced at Green Lake, Alki Beach, Lake Union, Golden Gardens and Lake Washington. Chihuly Garden and Glass aims to give the artist complete creative control over the design and highlight his or her personal story through their work. To date, the award partnership has featured the work of artists Manuel Castro and Ali VandeGrift.

"We are excited to honor the amazing individuals and organizations that define our region with a local glass masterpiece through our partnership with Chihuly Garden and Glass," says Randy Engstrom, director, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture. "Nao Yamamoto's design is truly a homage to our amazing city."

The 2017 Mayor's Arts Awards recipients will be announced on Thursday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. at Seattle Center's Mural Amphitheatre. The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the Mayor's Arts Awards, including the 2017 finalists and past recipients, visit:

[www.seattle.gov/arts/mayors-arts-awards](http://www.seattle.gov/arts/mayors-arts-awards)

**About Chihuly Garden and Glass**

Located at Seattle Center, [Chihuly Garden and Glass](#) brings together all the elements of Dale Chihuly's work, including Drawings, signature glass series, large architectural installations and personal collections in a long-term exhibition.

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