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A Very Merry Market **Black Night Market Returns to Tacoma Armory** **for the Holidays December 9, 2023, 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

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TACOMA, WASH.— Tacoma Arts Live and Black Night Market present [A Very Merry Market](#) on Saturday, December 9 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. at Tacoma Armory. This event is free and open to the public and features festive performances, shopping with 80 BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)-owned businesses, and photos with Black Santa.

Mari Griffin is the Founder and Event Director of Black Night Market, an innovative marketplace that highlights BIPOC-owned businesses and visual and performing artists. Griffin is also an Accelerating Creative Enterprise (ACE) Program Partner with Tacoma Arts Live, which prompted the collaboration.

Tacoma Arts Live hosted Black Night Market at Tacoma Armory on April 1, 2023. Over 1500 people attended the six-hour multi-faceted free event to shop, dine, and enjoy the vibes. Throughout the day, there were celebrations of art, fashion, live music, poetry, food, and more, made possible by the transformative properties of Tacoma Armory's parade floor, one of the largest indoor gathering spaces in the city.

Griffin remembers the experience fondly: "The true vision of BNM came to life within the Armory walls, impacting our vendors and our guests in a positive way. Vendors sold out and everyone had a good time!" Since April, Griffin has directed four additional Black Night Market events around Tacoma.

A very Merry Market will feature several local artisans, vendors, and performers, including:

Ayana Freeman
Classy Lady Accessory Shop
Cre8tive Gestures
Her Glow Candy Shop
Lumpia Love Food Truck
Luxxd Jewelry

Marcel E.C. Augustin
Organic Juice Bar and Gyros
Puddin' Cakz
R. Burnett Brand
Sister Products
And many more!

"It's the way we take up space for me! Grooving and creating in our own frequencies. It's really a vibe," says Griffin.

A Very Merry Market is Saturday, December 9 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. at Tacoma Armory.

About [The ACE Program](#): The ACE program incubates and supports emerging BIPOC women entrepreneurs. Together with over 50 ACE Partners, Tacoma Arts Live is elevating community-led microenterprise by supporting working creative professionals, owners of small businesses, and nonprofit visionaries. ACE is administered in partnership with the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County with funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce.

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Tacoma Arts Live's mission is to energize the community through live performance. Founded in 1979, Tacoma Arts Live is a non-profit arts organization deeply connected to the community and recognized for presenting world-class artists, events, exhibitions, and cultural celebrations. Located at the historic Tacoma Armory, an innovative cultural hub, Tacoma Arts Live serves over 240,000 guests annually, and delivers exhilarating events, inspiring productions, and essential educational and entrepreneurial programs in the South Sound. Learn more at TacomaArtsLive.org.

Tacoma Arts Live gratefully acknowledges the following supporters of the 2023-24 Season: [Arts Fund](#); [Arts WA](#); [Bamford Foundation](#); [Boeing](#); [Forest Foundation](#); [Key Bank Foundation](#); [Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation](#); [Mid-America Arts Alliance](#); [Murdock Charitable Trust](#); [National Endowment for the Arts](#); Ruth Anderson Wheeler and Henry O. Wheeler Charitable Trust; [Safeco Insurance](#); [Tacoma Creates](#)