



## Tacoma city council approves Warhol dome flower plan

John Langelier reports

**John Langelier, KING 5 News** 7:42 a.m. PST February 11, 2015



(Photo: KING)

TACOMA, Wash. -- Tacoma's city council has approved a proposal to cover the 32-year-old Tacoma Dome with a massive, bright flower. The design was originally brought forward by artist Andy Warhol before the arena was even built.

Council approval does not ensure the large public art will go on display; \$5 million in private dollars must be raised first. Supporters are clear no taxpayer funds can be used for the project.

Warhol first submitted his flower for the Tacoma Dome in a 1982 contest, which he lost. His original print now hangs in the Convention Center.

Three years ago, Tacoma's arts community revisited the idea of painting the dome with Warhol's flower. Over the summer, the city tested out an adhesive, instead of paint, as a way to cover the 6.5 acre surface of the dome's roof.

The test proved the theory works, but also that there's a cost. It would cost more to clean and maintain, said city facilities manager Kim Bedier.

"We're looking at installation, ongoing maintenance and eventual removal," she explained, "It's an investment, but when you think of it as an investment in the aesthetics of our community, I would wager our community's worth it."

It is likely the art would stay up for just three years if the money can be raised to put the flower on in the first place. City arts officials said the Warhol Foundation was interested in the project as well.

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