

Water Forest fix still sought

Water Forest may one day reappear at the Museum of Glass plaza.

But Amy McBride, Tacoma arts administrator, has learned not to predict when. Every time it appears the fountain sculpture is fixed, it suffers another setback.

The trouble started more than five years ago, soon after the Museum of Glass opened. A boy crashed into it, knocking over a heavy glass tube and shattering it. Ever since, city officials have been struggling to redesign in a way that will prevent a similar incident.

Last year, they gave up on using glass and switched to cast acrylic for the tubes. In June, workers temporarily installed three of the tubes, and it appeared the fountain would be functioning in about three weeks.

But a new problem emerged with the adhesive that's supposed to bind the pieces, McBride said. The city contacted the 3M company in Minnesota for help, and is in the process of testing a solution, McBride said. On Friday, she'll see the results of the latest tests.

The fountain was the work of acclaimed Rhode Island artist Howard Ben Tre. It cost the city \$208,000.



DREW PERINE/The News Tribune file

Officials are testing ways to reinstall “Water Forest” at the Museum of Glass plaza in Tacoma.

Twenty hollow tubes, or “trees,” sprouted from the concrete plaza and overflowed with water.

It may not be possible to fix it, but McBride doesn't want to give up until she's certain she did everything possible.

“The city is still working on it,” she said.
Jason Hagey, The News Tribune