



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Council Member Keith Blocker and Council Assistant Claire Goodwin  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Council Contingency Fund Request – South Sound Together – April 12, 2022  
**DATE:** April 6, 2022

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution authorizing the use of \$12,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to fund grants that support community engagement programs sponsored through South Sound Together.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Council Member Keith Blocker, and Council Member Conor McCarthy

**BACKGROUND:**

South Sound Together is a non-profit, collaborative effort of community-minded business leaders and angel investors seeking to promote the South Puget Sound as a good place for business and a great place to live. South Sound Together builds partnership with the community and positively impacts the lifestyle and economy of the South Sound. Since 2015, South Sound Together has provided seed money and launched various projects no one else was doing: provided funding alongside University of Washington-Tacoma to start the South Sound Alliance; helped bring Sue’s Tech Kitchen to Tacoma, a 3-day interactive event to engage youth in STEM education and technology; and sponsored the Next Leaders Initiative to support civic engagement of youth, among many other projects.

This funding of \$12,000 is requested to support the grant pool of this year’s projects. Projects that receive funding are determined by the South Sound Together Board, which a representative of the City of Tacoma’s Community and Economic Development Department is a member. Other sponsors and Board representatives come from Bates Technical College, CHI Franciscan Health, Columbia Bank, JayRay, MultiCare Health System, The News Tribune, Pacific Lutheran University, Rainier Connect, Sound Credit Union, Tacoma Arts Live, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma Public Utilities, Tacoma Urban League, United Way of Pierce County, and University of Washington-Tacoma. Since 2015, over \$2 million has been invested in community-based projects from local participating organizations and matching angel investors.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

This funding will support grants for community engagement programs and for community-wide projects that benefit Tacoma’s diverse communities. The specific projects to be funded will be determined by the South Sound Together Board, and therefore the specific community members or organizations who will benefit have yet to be decided. Last year’s projects focused on increasing youth civic engagement and projects focused on serving communities of color and LGBTQ+ youth. Funding was awarded to the Institute for Black Justice, Palmer Scholars, Politics of the Possible in Action, Greentrike, and the Oasis Youth Center. This funding supports the request of leadership from South Sound Together.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)**

This funding will provide resources to South Sound Together to select competitive proposals to serve the residents



of Tacoma. Past projects indicate a commitment to low-income, racially diverse, and young residents. Projects selected by the Board will undoubtedly support principles of equity and inclusion, as has been the case in the last two rounds of project selection.

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the availability of industry-specific education programs to support identified growth sectors.

**Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**

This proposal will likely increase the availability of industry-specific education programs to support identified growth sectors by funding programs that support business and economic development in the city. This proposal will also increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma by funding social impact programs and providing financial support on behalf of the City Council.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. No action	Funding available for other identified priorities from the Council Contingency Fund	There would be less funding available for South Sound Together to distribute to community engagement projects
2. Provide additional funding	Additional funding would increase the amount available to be distributed to community groups	Larger financial ask to the Council Contingency Fund

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

Success is defined by South Sound Together distributing the funding to community groups in-alignment with the mission and vision of the Board of South Sound Together. South Sound Together will report back on what projects were funded in the 2022 program year.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Support a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,000 to fund grants that support community engagement programs sponsored through South Sound Together.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The proposal has a fiscal impact of \$12,000 budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
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1030 – Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$12,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$12,000

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?**

Council Contingency Fund

**Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?**

**YES**

The Council Contingency Fund is provided an established amount of funding each biennium available for Council-sponsored initiatives.

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

**YES**

The impacts of not funding this proposal are that there would be less resources available to South Sound Together to support local community engagement projects. As a sponsor, the City participates as a member of the South Sound Together Board and decides what projects receive funding. If funding was not provided, the City would not be part of the overall decision-making body for the resources provided this year from the wide variety of sponsors.

**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

**No**

**Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?**

**No**

The proposal funds grants that support community engagement programs sponsored through South Sound Together and does not impact the City’s personnel counts.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution
- Council Contingency Fund balance sheet

## 2022 Council Contingency Commitments

<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>
<b>(Remaining balance from 2021 that will be carried over)</b>	<b>\$ 88,592.09</b>
<b>Council Requested - Seed Internships</b>	<b>\$ 31,000.00</b>
Resolution 40919	
<i>A Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$31,000 to fund the full or partial costs of five or more Tacoma-based small businesses or non-profits of hosting a Seed Internship.</i>	
<b>Council Requested - Daffodil Parade</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
Resolution 40925	
A resolution authorizing the one-time use of \$20,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to be applied to the cost of in-kind services provided by the City of Tacoma such as traffic control devices and traffic control services.	
<b>Council Requested - Tacoma Reads</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>Resolution 40934</b>	
A request for City Council concurrence for a \$10,000 City Council Contingency Fund request to support the 2022 Tacoma Reads Together events.	
<b>Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Resolution 40941</b>	
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$25,000 to assist the Tacoma Refugee Choir in funding the music video portion of their 2022 spring projects.	
<b>Council Requested - Litter Free 253</b>	<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>
<b>Resolution 40940</b>	
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to fund litter pick-up tools "litter grabbers," for the annual volunteer-led Litter Free 253 event.	
<b>Council Requested - South Sound Together</b>	<b>\$ 12,000.00</b>
<b>To Council April 12, 2022</b>	
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,000 to fund grants that support community engagement programs sponsored through South Sound.	
<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$ 338,592.09</b>
<b>Total Amount Allocated</b>	<b>\$ 100,500.00</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$ 238,092.09</b>