



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,500 to sponsor attendance of Tacoma youth to Fuzhou Youth Week Convening – Requested for June 11, 2024  
**DATE:** February 21, 2024

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,500 to sponsor attendance of Tacoma youth to Fuzhou Youth Week Convening

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Council Member Joe Bushnell, and Council Member Kristina Walker

**BACKGROUND:**

From June 21 to June 30, the city of Fuzhou, China, which has proudly been our Sister City for an impressive 30 years, will be hosting an exciting youth week event. As part of this momentous occasion, Fuzhou has extended a special invitation to the City of Tacoma to send a delegation of up to 10 students to participate in this unique cultural and educational exchange. This event is a significant component of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Sister City relationship between Tacoma and Fuzhou.

During this youth week, Tacoma students will have the extraordinary opportunity to join approximately 150 students from various parts of the United States, as well as about 160 Chinese students. This gathering aims to foster international friendship, cultural understanding, and mutual learning among the youth of our two nations.

Although the host country, China, will be generously covering most of the expenses associated with this event, there are some costs that will need to be borne by the students and their families. These include certain fees and additional expenses, which may pose a financial barrier to participation for some students. To help mitigate these costs, funding efforts will be concentrated on reducing the out-of-pocket expenses for the students. This support will specifically target necessary expenditures such as Visa applications and any travel costs that are not included in the comprehensive invitation from Fuzhou.

We are committed to making this incredible opportunity as accessible as possible for all eligible students and are working diligently to secure the necessary funding to ensure broad participation. This youth exchange promises to be an enriching experience that will create lasting memories and strengthen the bonds between our Sister Cities.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

Fuzhou is one of our oldest and most cherished Sister Cities, with a rich history of engagement and collaboration. Over the years, our leadership on the Fuzhou committee has maintained regular communication with their counterparts in Fuzhou, fostering strong ties through cultural, youth, and economic exchanges. To invite students to join the delegation for the upcoming youth week, our staff has actively engaged with the Mayor’s Youth Commission, ensuring broad representation and enthusiasm. We focused on students from Stadium and Lincoln High Schools, both of which have established relationships with Fuzhou. This collaborative effort highlights our



commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for our youth to engage in international exchange and cultural immersion, strengthening the bonds between our two cities even further.

## **2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

### **Equity and Accessibility:**

Traveling to other countries is a special experience and one that some students may never have the opportunity to engage in. Students were selected for their engagement in the Mayor's Youth Commission and attendance at Stadium or Lincoln High Schools, with a focus on low-income students or those who would otherwise not qualify for opportunities like this one. The intent is to target students where this would be a life changing opportunity and one that would be deeply appreciated.

### **Education:** *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

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

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

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.

### **Livability:** *Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.*

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

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

Traveling is an invaluable way for students to learn about different communities and cultures, gaining new perspectives that enrich their lives back home. This organized and facilitated opportunity to visit Fuzhou, China, is not just a chance for personal growth, but a strategic initiative to enhance educational opportunities, civic engagement, and the overall livability of our community.

Students who participate in this exchange will expand their horizons by learning directly from their Chinese peers and engaging with facilitators on topics of mutual interest to both countries. This curated experience will allow them to immerse themselves in Fuzhou's rich culture and history, bringing back valuable insights and knowledge to share with their classmates and the wider Tacoma community.

By participating in this program, Tacoma students will contribute to a culture of learning that extends beyond those who travel. Their experiences will be shared with peers in their schools and with members of the Mayor's Youth Commission, creating a ripple effect of knowledge and understanding. This initiative will also support increased civic engagement, encouraging more residents to participate in Sister Cities programs and similar exchanges.

Moreover, the benefits of such exchanges extend to the entire community. Programs like this one can inspire the creation of community spaces that foster resident-to-resident learning and cultural appreciation, much like the Chinese Reconciliation Park, which emerged from the partnership with Fuzhou. Through these efforts, we can build a more inclusive, educated, and connected community, enhancing the livability of Tacoma for all its residents.



**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not fund this request	More funding available for future needs	Travel will not be possible for this opportunity

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

Students will be asked to provide a write up of their experiences to share with other students and the Fuzhou Sister City Committee, and recommendations for continued engagement. This will ensure more than just those students traveling benefit, and that we continue to create opportunities for future exchanges with Fuzhou.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

We recommend approval of this Council Contingency Fund request that supports youth engagement and education opportunities in Tacoma.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.1030- Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$12,500</b>

**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?**

**NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW**

The Council Contingency Fund provides an established amount of funding each year for unbudgeted Council sponsored initiatives.

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

No

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

No

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

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 2023-2024 Council Contingency Commitments

## 2024 Council Contingency Commitments

<b>2024 - 2025</b>	\$	<b>225,000.00</b>
(Remaining balance that will be carried over in March / April 2024 )	\$	<b>19,450.00</b>

### Resolution 41354

<b>Council Requested - Raising Girls Sponsorship</b>	\$	<b>10,000.00</b>
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor 500 Raising Girls winter care bags with personal hygiene and menstrual products, as well as warm winter items, for low-income Tacoma students.

### Resolution 41372

<b>Council Requested - Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange</b>	\$	<b>5,000.00</b>
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange.

### Resolution 41373

<b>Council Requested - Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Culture Festival</b>	\$	<b>5,500.00</b>
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,500 to sponsor Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Cultural Festival.

### Resolution 41378

<b>Council Requested - Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest</b>	\$	<b>10,000.00</b>
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) for their Phone Call Fund to support access to phone services for detainees in the Northwest Ice Processing Center

### Resolution 41386

<b>Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir's First Annual Symposium Sponsorship</b>	\$	<b>10,000.00</b>
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A Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Refugee Choir's first annual symposium, "From Welcoming to Cooperation."

### To Council June 4, 2024

<b>Council Requested - Facilitation of Pierce County Climate Conversation Meetings</b>	\$	<b>20,000.00</b>
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Resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Pierce County Climate Conversation

### To Study Session June 4, 2024

<b>Council Requested - Broadway Street Broken Window Repairs</b>	\$	<b>25,000.00</b>
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A \$25,000 Council Contingency Request for matching funds to support broken window replacement for businesses affected along Broadway

### To Council June 4, 2024

<b>Council Requested - Youth Sponsorship to Fuzhou, China</b>	\$	<b>12,500.00</b>
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A Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$12,500 to support youth attendance at the Fuzhou Youth Week Convening in late June

<b>Starting Balance</b>	\$	<b>244,450.00</b>
<b>Total Amount Allocated</b>	\$	<b>98,000.00</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>	\$	<b>146,450.00</b>