



ORDINANCE NO. 29057

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS, DEPUTY MAYOR KIARA DANIELS,
2 COUNCIL MEMBERS SCOTT, AND WALKER

3 AN ORDINANCE reimposing the Tacoma Creates cultural access program,
4 Chapter 1.55 of the Municipal Code, and the one tenth of one percent
5 sales and use tax that funds it, for an additional seven consecutive
6 years.

7 WHEREAS Tacoma Creates is a Cultural Access Program, approved by
8 voters in 2018 and funded by a local sales tax of one tenth of one percent, and

9 WHEREAS, overseen by the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division of the City's
10 Community and Economic Development department, Tacoma Creates helps fund
11 nonprofit organizations with a primary purpose to provide public programming in
12 arts, culture, heritage, and science, and

13 WHEREAS Tacoma Creates also aims to reduce barriers to access and to
14 expand programming offerings citywide, and

15 WHEREAS, since 2019, Tacoma Creates has provided over \$30 million in
16 funding to more than 100 cultural organizations, who in turn have produced more
17 than 5,000 programs and events, reaching more than four million participants, and

18 WHEREAS, in 2023, House Bill 1575 granted municipalities the option,
19 under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 82.14.525, to reimpose a sales and use
20 tax for Cultural Access Programs, as established originally in RCW Chapter 36.160,
21 with councilmanic action, and

22 WHEREAS Mayor Victoria Woodards, Deputy Mayor Kiara Daniels, Council
23 Member Jamika Scott, and Council Member Kristina Walker, along with Tacoma
24 Creates staff, have met with the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board and the Tacoma
25
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Creates Reauthorization Committee to seek feedback on reimposing the program,
1 and

2 WHEREAS, in early December 2024, Tacoma Creates staff also launched a
3 community survey to learn more about how arts, culture, heritage, and science
4 programming impact our community, and
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6 WHEREAS this survey showed that 94.8 percent of respondents felt Tacoma
7 Creates funding was "Very Important" or "Important" and that 91.5 percent felt that
8 Tacoma Creates should be reimposed by the City Council, and
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10 WHEREAS the original Tacoma Creates legislation passed with 67.2 percent
11 of the vote and every voting district in the city approved it, indicating robust citywide
12 support, and

13 WHEREAS the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) study, released in
14 October 2023 by Americans for the Arts, confirmed Tacoma residents' continued
15 support for arts, particularly as a source of pride in a neighborhood, and
16

17 WHEREAS Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") Chapter 1.55 will expire in
18 2026, and Tacoma has an opportunity to be the first city in the state to use
19 councilmanic authority to reimpose our Cultural Access Program, paving the way
20 for other cities across Washington to take similar action, and
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22 WHEREAS reimposing TMC 1.55 will ensure funding for an additional
23 seven consecutive years to continue to nurture and build durable cultural
24 organizations in our city and provide access to arts, culture, heritage, and science
25 programming; Now, Therefore,
26



BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the Recitals of this Ordinance as its formal legislative findings.

Section 2. That Tacoma Municipal Code 1.55, the Tacoma Creates program and the one tenth of one percent sales and use tax that funds it, is hereby reimposed for an additional seven consecutive years.

Section 3. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Chief Deputy City Attorney