



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Mello, through Council Assistant Rebecca Boydston
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Use of City Council Contingency Funds for KNKX 88.5 FM's Building Renovation for Community Meeting Space – September 10, 2019
DATE: August 22, 2019

SUMMARY:

Resolution authorizing the one-time payment of \$45,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund to support the final phase of KNKX 88.5 FM's capital campaign to renovate the historic CN Gardner building for the purpose of providing education space for youth and adults and programming to encourage civic dialogue, contingent on securing sufficient funds to complete the project; and, directing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement for services with terms and deliverables for the City's contribution.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards and Council Members Beale and Mello

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The use of the City Council Contingency Funds for this purpose best aligns with the following strategic policy priorities:

- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.

BACKGROUND:

KNKX (formerly KPLU) has served the Pacific Northwest since 1966, and is the region's leading source of jazz, blues and in-depth local and National Public Radio (NPR) news. Operating a network of 12 radio signals that cover Western Washington, KNKX reaches 500,000 listeners weekly, on-air and online. KNKX provides a Northwest perspective from a team of local journalists, and covers topics including education, homelessness and the environment. As news outlets continue to decline, KNKX's robust news programs continue to grow.

KNKX became an independent station in 2016. The change followed an unprecedented community effort in which 20,000 listeners gave \$8 million to save the station. The terms of the sale, from Pacific Lutheran University to KNKX, require that the station move off the campus this summer. The need to find a new location has presented KNKX with an opportunity to make a greater impact and connection in the community. KNKX is moving to 930 Broadway, across from Tacoma Arts Live, next door to Tacoma's School of the Arts (SOTA), one-block from mass transit, and adjacent to the Broadway Farmers Market.

The new studio will be built to invite the community in and will enable KNKX to increase its music and news activities in Tacoma. This includes hosting live news, jazz and blues shows from the Control Room where Tacomans will be able to see live radio happening from the street. The project plans also include a "Living Room". A large, mixed use gathering space, the Living Room is where KNKX will host news events, music education clinics and free, live music performances. The Tacoma facility also includes three additional studios for hosting roundtable discussions on community issues, training students to record and edit stories, and producing content with local partners.



The new facility will expand KNKX’s educational outreach and partnerships in the community. With proximity to area schools, and an upgraded facility, the Tacoma home will enable KNKX to expand its internships, music education activities, and create a new, innovative storytelling program for students. These opportunities will provide youth with the experiences they need to pursue careers in media and the arts. KNKX will also partner with Tacoma Arts Live and use their existing venues for larger concerts and community forums, and organizations like the WA State Historical Museum and Channel 253, to tell more of the untold stories of the region. Through stories, events and the promotion of arts activities, KNKX also shines a light on Tacoma’s arts community, increasing engagement and awareness in the arts.

The total cost of the KNKX Tacoma facility is \$3.7 million, with just over \$3 million raised to date. Funders include individual donors, local foundations and the State of Washington. A commitment from the City of Tacoma will help to secure future funding from additional foundations and is critical to KNKX’s ability to reach the project fundraising goal. KNKX will begin broadcasting from the new facility at the end of August, 2019, with an opening celebration on September 7, 2019. This new facility will revitalize a long underutilized downtown space and support local independent journalism, education space for youth and adults and provide programming to encourage civil, civic dialogue to improve the quality of life for all Tacomans.

Council Member Mello shared a Council Consideration request at the August 20, 2019 Study Session and there was a consensus to move a resolution forward for Council consideration.

ISSUE:

In order to authorize the use of the City Council Contingency Funds for this purpose, a resolution must be adopted.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could chose to modify or reject this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

The sponsoring Mayor and Council Members recommend authorizing the use of the Contingency Funds for this purpose. This new facility will revitalize a long underutilized downtown space and support local independent journalism, education space for youth and adults and provide programming to encourage civil, civic dialogue to improve the quality of life for the residents of Tacoma.



FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1030 Council Contingency Fund	660000	5310100	\$45,000
TOTAL			\$45,000

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1030 Council Contingency Fund	660000	6311010	\$45,000
TOTAL			\$45,000

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$45,000

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes