



RESOLUTION NO. 40590

1 A RESOLUTION relating to Tacoma’s Cultural Sector; authorizing amendments to
2 contracts let through the Tacoma Arts Commission process, and authorizing
3 contracts for Tacoma Creates funding which will allow cultural arts work to
4 continue in Tacoma during the COVID-19 emergency and recovery period.

5 WHEREAS Tacoma’s Cultural Sector has a significant impact on
6 Tacoma’s economy and employs thousands of people, with an economic impact
7 to the community of over \$75 million dollars annually, and

8 WHEREAS the Cultural Sector is particularly challenged by the impact of
9 the COVID-19 pandemic and the directives to cancel events that have resulted in
10 layoffs, lost income, and instability, and

11 WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic offers an unprecedented opportunity
12 for the Cultural Sector to serve the community in creative ways that are needed
13 now more than ever, because the pandemic response does not change what
14 Tacoma Creates was designed to do, it enhances the opportunity, and

15 WHEREAS the National Endowment for the Arts, the Washington State
16 Arts Commission, and the City of Seattle’s Office of Arts and Culture, and King
17 County’s 4Culture Public Development Authority have all announced economic
18 relief packages that redirect project/programming funding to immediate
19 operational support to sustain the Cultural Sector, and

20 WHEREAS the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality (“OAVC”) has prepared
21 a proposal following national and regional guidance that is intended to transition
22 current cultural contracts to work that is feasible during the COVID-19
23 emergency, and afford Tacoma Cultural Sector organizations the opportunity to
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1 contract for work during the COVID-19 emergency and the anticipated social and
2 economic recovery to follow, and

3 WHEREAS OACV is proposing to amend all existing contracts issued
4 through the Tacoma Arts Commission and Tacoma Creates Expanded Learning
5 Opportunity (“ELO”) program to revised scopes of work to include work that is
6 feasible during the COVID-10 emergency and recovery period, and

7 WHEREAS the Tacoma Arts Commission’s contracts with small arts
8 organizations, creative businesses, and working artists support many freelance
9 artists and creative businesses that do not meet the criteria for Tacoma Creates
10 funding, and the ELO program was suspended when schools were directed to
11 close, and

12 WHEREAS OACV is also proposing to contract for and fund through
13 Tacoma Creates work that is feasible during the COVID-19 emergency and
14 future recovery which can assist in sustaining Tacoma’s Cultural Sector
15 organizations during this very challenging time, and

16 WHEREAS applications for Tacoma Creates funding have been received
17 from 58 eligible organizations, and are being reviewed by independent panels
18 according to eligibility criteria established in the Tacoma Municipal Code and the
19 review criteria published in application guidelines, and

20 WHEREAS the 58 organizations in consideration at this time applied for
21 inaugural Tacoma Creates funding programs that were already launched in
22 advance of the pandemic, and to solicit applications for this funding, OACV staff
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1 conducted extensive outreach, held workshops throughout the community, online
2 webinars, and one-on-one meetings, and

3 WHEREAS these organizations will be required to submit a supplemental
4 form to address current financial and staffing impacts of the current pandemic,
5 and detail the deliverables achievable during and after the COVID-19 emergency
6 which will provide the accountability measures and will be required for payment,
7 and

8 WHEREAS the City will contract with the organizations, with a measured
9 approach that honors the independent panel review process, allows
10 organizations to adapt and adjust to changed circumstances to provide public
11 benefit in ways that best serve the community during the COVID pandemic and
12 social distancing, and allows planning for recovery and programming later in the
13 year, and

14 WHEREAS City contracts will tie deliverables to phases of payments that
15 are disbursed over the course of the year and will track activities through
16 reporting while allowing organizations to adapt to current circumstances, produce
17 public benefit appropriate to social distancing in the near term, collaboratively
18 plan how to meet emergent needs of the community and the sector, and
19 implement programming appropriate to recovery, and

20 WHEREAS OACV proposal recommends a three-part strategy for
21 supporting cultural arts work in Tacoma during the COVID-19 emergency and
22 recovery period, and
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WHEREAS the first strategy is to amend existing contracts for Tacoma Arts Commission funding to work that is feasible during the COVID-19 emergency and future recovery, and

WHEREAS the second strategy is to amend existing Tacoma Creates ELO contracts to work that is feasible during the COVID-19 emergency and future recovery, and

WHEREAS the third strategy is to designate up to \$1 million of Tacoma Creates funds for new contracts with eligible Tacoma Cultural Sector organizations for deliverables that are feasible and achievable during the COVID-19 emergency and anticipated recovery period, and

WHEREAS this third strategy will be implemented by reviewing proposals received from 58 organizations that applied to provide cultural services throughout Tacoma, with an emphasis on equity, access, and community engagement, and

WHEREAS these organizations proposing to receive Tacoma Creates funding will be required to complete a supplemental form that describes the shift in deliverables that are achievable during and after the COVID-19 emergency, and

WHEREAS the 58 eligible organizations reach all neighborhoods of the City and intentionally focus on equity and outreach to underserved communities;
Now, Therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

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Section 1. That the City Council finds that Cultural Sector organizations and independent workers in Tacoma are experiencing severe negative impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the sector’s work is based in events and classes, all of which have been cancelled or postponed, creating significant risk of loss of cultural organizations and artists. Individuals in the Cultural Sector are often self-employed or have additional employment in the service sector, which is also largely shut down. Most Tacoma non-profit cultural organizations operate on thin margins, and most do not have endowments or other safety nets to sustain them. The Cultural Sector has significant economic impact in the City of Tacoma, and will play an important role in bringing the community together when that becomes possible; therefore, it is critical to sustain the Tacoma Cultural Sector so it is able to help sustain the Tacoma community overall.

Section 2. That the City Council finds that the three-part strategy proposed by the City’s Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality to sustain Tacoma’s cultural sector through operational support, which will allow the sector to engage in cultural arts work that supports Tacoma's social cohesion during the COVID-19 emergency and recovery is consistent with the intent, purposes, and regulations of the Tacoma Creates program, will serve an important public purpose, and will provide public benefits commensurate to the proposed expenditures.

Section 3. That the City Manager or designee is hereby authorized to take any additional actions and execute any documents necessary to effectuate this Resolution consistent with its terms.



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Section 4. That the City Council finds that this Resolution is directly related to the COVID-19 emergency, and therefore, consistent with Governor Inslee’s emergency proclamation issued March 24, 2020, suspending portions of the Open Public Meetings Act for 30 days.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney