



City of Tacoma

Economic Development

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/88227539908 Passcode: 614650

October 24, 2023

10:00 AM

Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Kiara Daniels, Joe Bushnell,
Olgy Diaz, Sarah Rumbaugh (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Blocker, Bushnell and Rumbaugh

Absent: 2 - Daniels and Diaz

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

[23-1027](#)

Minutes of the Economic Development Committee of the
May 9, 2023, meeting.

[23-1030](#)

Minutes of the Economic Development of the
May 23, 2023, meeting.

**MOTION: Council Member Bushnell moved to approve the minutes of
the May 9, and May 23, 2023, meetings.**

SECONDED BY: Council Member Rumbaugh.

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared
adopted.**

Ayes: 3 - Blocker, Bushnell and Rumbaugh

Absent: 2 - Daniels and Diaz

Briefing Items

1. [23-1025](#) 2023 BIPOC Alliance Feasibility Study Recommendations
[Dierdre Patterson, Business Financing Program Manager,
Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:23 a.m., Dierdre Patterson, Business Financing Program Manager, Community and Economic Development, introduced Patricia Coleman, Kellie Richardson, and Annie Jones-Barnes, Principal Consultants, Coleman and Associates; and Norinda Rosario Yancey, Founder, President, and CEO, Fierce Buddha LLC. Together they presented on the 2023 Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Chamber of Commerce feasibility study recommendations, including a summary on outreach methods used to receive follow up from small business owners to create profile forms; characteristics of businesses by race, noting businesses related to hospitality, retail, wholesale, service, professionalism, and religion survey questions; survey results, reflecting expressed needs and participation level; and criteria for analysis, noting examples of economic conditions or nonprofits, geographic proximity of other chambers of commerce, local programs and support for small businesses and cross cultural connections. Richardson continued by outlining the comparative analysis and research conclusion charts for core similarities of advocacy, access to capital, business development, networking, scholarship, and events and celebrations; and unique programming, noting digital networking and mall, incubators business accelerator, immigration resources, ethnic chamber coalition, interactive labor standards tools and safe travel guide; and conclusions and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding feedback from business owners with what has helped them and what they need to be more successful; accessing capital and who can invest to assist; networking and connections; an ecosystem program to provide full support to all small business owners needs; whether to establish a BIPOC Chamber; thresholds; grant processes; what Chambers exist within Pierce County, noting the Latino Chambers of Commerce and African American Chambers, sharing memberships with other Chamber of Commerce, creating a partnership with the African American Chambers; the incubator and accelerator programs; and outreach to other Chambers to see how everyone can work together and participate.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. [23-1026](#) October 31, 2023 - Combined Committees, Boards and Commissions Report Out
November 14, 2023 - Tacoma Arts Commission Interviews
November 28, 2023 - Tacoma Creates Update

Cathy Satava, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be held on October 31, 2023, and will include the combined committee, boards and commissions report out and will be held in Chambers; the November 14, 2023, meeting will include the Tacoma Arts Commission interviews; and the November 28, 2023, meeting will include a Tacoma Creates update; and the December 12, 2023, meeting will include the Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee interviews.

Other Items of Interest

Lisa Jaret and Naomi Strom-Avila, Arts Program Administrators, Community and Economic Development, stated combined interviews will be held for the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board (TCAB) and the Tacoma Art Commission (TAC) during the November 14, 2023, meeting; and explained that there are six positions on TAC and two positions on TCAB, and the same questions would be asked for both committees.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Keith Blocker, Chair

Hollyann Piotrowski, City Clerk's Office