



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Patricia Beard, Interim Director, Community & Economic Development Department (CED)  
**COPY:** Economic Development Committee  
**PRESENTER:** Rebecca Solverson, Division Manager, Arts & Cultural Vitality/CED  
Lisa Jaret, Tacoma Creates Program Manager, Arts & Cultural Vitality/CED  
Clarissa Gines, Tacoma Creates Coordinator, Arts & Cultural Vitality/CED  
Katie Mattran, Vice Chair, Tacoma Creates Advisory Board  
**SUBJECT:** Tacoma Creates Annual Report 2023-24  
**DATE:** October 29, 2024

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Please select the type of presentation you will be making to the Council Committee.  
Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

Tacoma Creates staff will present to the Economic Development Committee regarding the 2023-24 cycle of Tacoma Creates funding distribution, and the positive impacts of this funding in the community.

**BACKGROUND:**

November 2018, Tacoma voters approved Tacoma Creates by 67.2%, passing in every reporting precinct. Tacoma Creates is the first Cultural Access Program under RCW 36.160 to be enacted in Washington State. The sales tax increase (1/10 of 1%) authorized under Tacoma Creates went into effect April 2019 and will be in place through March 2026; it must be reauthorized to continue beyond that point. City Council passed local legislation (TMC 1.55) in December 2019, which defines local parameters and honors the foundations established by and required in the Cultural Access Washington legislation.

Eligible non-profit arts, culture, heritage, and science organizations apply for funding that helps them expand equitable access to public programs, increase opportunities both downtown and in neighborhoods throughout Tacoma, expand educational options for youth, and build sustainability for ongoing cultural programs and operations that provide value for people in the City of Tacoma.

**ISSUE:**

This presentation will provide an overview of 2023-24 Tacoma Creates Annual Report, in advance of its public release. The report includes details about more than \$5M distributed to over 60 local non-profit cultural organizations, and the positive impacts of this funding in the community. This briefing will include data about equity and access efforts, effective partnerships with Tacoma Public Schools and Tacoma Public Library, and examples of programming happening downtown and in neighborhoods across the City. There is no request for formal action.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.