



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Amy McBride, Arts Administrator, Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality
Kim Bedier, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Substitute Ordinance – Tacoma Creates Establishing Legislation – December 3, 2019
DATE: November 21, 2019

SUMMARY:

This memo is to establish Section 1.55 Tacoma Creates in Tacoma Municipal Code to codify local legislation for the implementation of a Cultural Access Program as authorized by RCW 36.160 and passed in Tacoma by public vote by a margin of 67.2% in November, 2019. The ordinance will describe programmatic elements, establish an Advisory Board, and define eligibility.

The intention of the originating Cultural Access legislation is to increase access, reduce barriers, and encourage the expansion and sustainability of arts, culture, heritage and science organizations. However, the definitions in the RCW 36.160 are both very specific and very vague and, if interpreted strictly, would preclude many local organizations from being eligible for funding and therefore limit the programs and experiences that fulfill the vision for Tacoma Creates. Creating a program that accomplishes the goals of equity and access begins with the ability to fund a diversity of organizations.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

Tacoma Creates aligns with and supports the following strategic priorities:

- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

On October 29, 2019, staff presented Ordinance 28626 to City Council for first reading. Substitute Ordinance #28626 responds to questions and suggestions posed and input gathered and specific amendments proposed by City Council.

The majority of questions and concerns were focused on ensuring access and equity are integral to the program and practices of Tacoma Creates.

The Office of Arts & Culture will develop an Equity and Inclusion Strategy to guide and support the work of the Office, advance the strategies in Artfull Tacoma and provide direction to all programming areas and practices.

The proposed ordinance sets the stage by recommending eligibility criteria that expands participation by a diverse range of cultural organizations to access funding.



The Equity and Inclusion strategy will provide guidance to ensure that

- Capacity building and support to cultural organizations addresses needs that advance success and sustainability of anti-racist and anti-oppression practices in support organizational sustainability and success.
- Equity is addressed at all stages of the grantmaking process.
- That competitive organizations (with or without a 2-year track record) will show a commitment to Tacoma grounded in community, knowledge of and sensitivity to the communities who are being served, and relevant experience and representation that reflect those communities.

Tacoma Creates will establish a series of focus groups, roundtables and technical working groups throughout the development and implementation of Tacoma Creates that include residents who represent communities disproportionately impacted by the sales tax and practitioners who have developed best practices in equitable implementation of service to provide input and a feedback loop for continuous improvement.

An environmental scan is currently being conducted throughout Tacoma, starting with South End, South Tacoma, Eastside and working northward, to identify where cultural services are currently being offered to identify a baseline to inform decisions. This information, along with the City of Tacoma's Equity Index, will be used to inform highest areas of need and track impact over time.

Tacoma Creates is a seven year program to be renewed at the behest of voters in 2025. To enable funding to be dispersed in a timely manner and enable community programming to begin, it is recommended that pilot programs may be designed and enabled in advance of the appointment of the Advisory Board. Guideline development and evaluation will be influenced by community input, the application process will be competitive and review panels will be convened from a diverse array of community members consistent with the practices of the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality.

ISSUE:

Should council adopt substitute ordinance 28626 including the changes proposed?

ALTERNATIVES:

To successfully implement the Tacoma Creates program in Tacoma, adoption of local legislation is necessary. This recommendation is designed to be as inclusive as possible while honoring the intent of the originating legislation.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council adopt Substitute Ordinance 28626.



FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1195-CED Special Revenue	Various	Various	\$9,986,356
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1195-CED Special Revenue	Various	Various	\$9,986,356
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$9,986,356

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.