



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor, City Manager's Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Council Contingency funds for 2021 Tacoma Reads – June 8, 2021
DATE: June 1, 2021

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution allocating \$10,000 in City Council Contingency Funds to support the 2021 Tacoma Reads programming and events.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker, and Councilmember Kristina Walker

BACKGROUND:

“Tacoma Reads” is our beloved, local community reads program, where the larger community is encouraged to read, think, and discuss compelling and meaningful themes from a selected book. The City works with Tacoma Public Library to select titles for adult, young adult, and children and their families around a shared theme; develop programming; and arrange for a Tacoma event with the author of the adult selection. This year, in partnership with the support of the Tacoma Urban League as our primary event sponsor, the following titles have been selected:

The children’s selection for the 2021 Tacoma Reads program is Jacqueline Woodson's The Day You Begin, a beautifully illustrated picture book about finding the courage to connect even when you feel scared and alone.

For young adults, this year’s selection is A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee, about a young woman who learns about family, friendship, and standing up for what's right

The 2021 adult title is the #1 New York Times Bestseller Caste by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson. In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Tacoma Reads programming will include a virtual event with Isabel Wilkerson that is tailored to the Tacoma community.

In alignment with Resolution No. 40622, the 2021 Tacoma Reads will engage the community in conversations and programming that explore the topics of race, social justice, and healing. Tacoma Urban League is providing a sponsorship of \$25,000 to expand on the programming for this year’s titles. If approved, this would mark the third year that the City Council has provided a \$10,000 sponsorship of Tacoma Reads. This support has expanded Tacoma Reads to include titles for readers of all ages and allowed a broader range of outreach and greater community conversation on the selected titles, even as Tacoma Public Library has moved to virtual programming.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

In alignment with Resolution No. 40622 and after careful review, the 2021 Tacoma Reads titles were chosen to engage the community in conversations and programming that explore the topics of race, social justice, and healing, and they have the support of the program’s primary sponsor.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

In alignment with Resolution No. 40622, the 2021 Tacoma Reads titles were chosen to engage the community in conversations and programming that explore the topics of race, social justice, and healing.

This legislation, program, project, or event is best aligned with the following:

Education: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: N/A

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Our local community reads program provides quality out-of-school learning opportunities by encouraging the community is encouraged to read, think, and discuss compelling and meaningful themes from selected books. Sponsorship in recent years has allowed us to expand to selecting titles for all ages. The City works with Tacoma Public Library to select titles for adult, young adult, and children and their families around a shared theme; develop programming; and arrange for a Tacoma event with the author of the adult selection. Conversations around race, social justice, and healing can contribute to the learning and raising of awareness and have the potential to limit the impacts of and/or reverse the impacts of systemic racism within the community and public institutions.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not sponsor Tacoma Reads	Council Contingency Funds can be used for other community priorities	Programming, opportunities for community conversation, and/or purchase of Tacoma Reads related will be limited.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Tacoma Public Library has performance metrics for programming. No additional follow up is needed.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the resolution allocating \$10,000 from the Council Contingency Fund for the 2021 Tacoma Reads program.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
Council Contingency Fund NUMBER	660000		\$10,000
TOTAL			\$10,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Funds would come directly from the Council Contingency Fund and supplement the Tacoma Urban League sponsorship and existing Tacoma Public Library allocations.

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

This sponsorship is in addition to the expenditures planning in this biennial budget.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Reduced community conversation and programming on race, social justice, and healing.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

No

Programming will be provided by existing staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

Council Contingency Commitments in the Current Biennium