



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Pat Beard, Interim Director, Community and Economic Development Department
COPY: **Economic Development Committee**
PRESENTER: Debbie Bingham, Community and Economic Development
SUBJECT: BLOXHUB Phase 1 update
DATE: July 30, 2024

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Phase I of work with BLOXHUB consultant group culminated in a day long ideation workshop attended by over 35 local stakeholders and run by the Nordic Consultant team. Preliminary outcomes have been provided and will be finalized in August. Phase II funding has been secured and will begin in the fall. This presentation will also cover the City Owned space at 928 Pacific Avenue (formerly the Loch’s space) and its potential use/revitalization mentioned as one potential outcome of the BLOXHUB project.

BACKGROUND:

Through contacts at the State of Washington, BLOXHUB has engaged in collaboration with City of Tacoma. To leverage the exchange of knowledge and solutions between City of Tacoma and BLOXHUB’s community, BLOXHUB developed a proposal for collaboration. Within this framework, BLOXHUB has activated a handpicked group of experts into the collaborative activities with City of Tacoma and local partners through a Nordic Design approach. The proposal provides a scalable model for collaboration to strengthen the City of Tacoma’s innovation capacity and sustainable impact within urban development and directly influence the transition towards a more livable and future-proof city. Funding for Phase I was obtained through the Governor’s office.

ISSUE:

Tacoma and BLOXHUB are engaged in a collaborative process to find solutions to the following problem statement: *We are seeking outcomes that spur economic development growth and draw people to the downtown Tacoma core to support our community and businesses by supporting business community led solutions, in collaboration with government and other partners, and activating its public spaces and underutilized buildings through intentional community engagement.* This statement and working collaboratively to brainstorm solutions with the local community and Nordic experts was the focus of the all-day workshop that was held on May 15th.

ALTERNATIVES:

Informational briefing only. There are no alternatives.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Informational briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational briefing only. There is no recommendation.