



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Christina Caan, Council Policy Analyst, City Manager's Office
Melanie Harding, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Sponsoring Lifelong Kindergarten's First Tacoma Summer Coding Workshop Series – June 13, 2023
DATE: June 7, 2023

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of up to \$7,000 to sponsor the Summer Coding Workshop Series developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab and hosted by Tacoma Public Libraries.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Member Kiara Daniels, Council Member John Hines, and Council Member Joe Bushnell

BACKGROUND:

The Summer Coding Workshop Series will provide a diverse range of young people in Tacoma with the opportunity to explore and learn how to use a new block-based coding app being developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media Lab. The app allows users to take photos and record sounds, and then bring them to life with code.

The Summer Coding Workshop Series will help participants build a wide variety of skills, including learning coding work and creative thinking. During the workshop, participants will create games, stories, and animations to reinforce learning from books read in the Tacoma Public Library Summer Reading Program. Books selected for this workshop will focus on amplifying stories from marginalized communities, including people of color, women, and people with disabilities. This new block-based coding language is set to be officially released in the fall of 2023, giving Tacoma's youth the opportunity to be amongst the first group of people to create using the app.

This funding would allow the City to sponsor the Summer Coding Workshop Series. This sponsorship would enable Lifelong Kindergarten to purchase twenty 9th Generation iPads for the Summer Coding Workshop Series at an educational price of \$309.00 per iPad and critical accessories. The sponsorship would also include a memorandum of understanding between Lifelong Kindergarten and Tacoma Public Library for the iPads to be donated to the Library after the conclusion of the workshop series. The technology currently available for use at the Tacoma Public Libraries does not allow for patrons to participate in collaborative creative learning activities, such as mobile coding or drawing/animating with tools such as Procreate and Scratch.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The Summer Coding Workshop Series will be held at a variety of Tacoma Public Library locations to reach a diverse group of participants. Workshop dates and Tacoma Public Library locations include:



- 6/23 - South Tacoma (2 – 3:30 pm)
- 6/29 - Fern Hill (2 – 3:30 pm)
- 7/6 – Moore (3:30 – 5 pm)
- 7/13 – Kobetich (3:30 – 5 pm)
- 7/28 – Wheelock (3:30 – 5 pm)
- 8/4 – Swasey (3:30 – 5 pm)
- 8/10 – Mottet (3:30 – 5 pm)

Two Tacoma Public Schools students - Jaylen Leonard (IDEA 2023) and Zion Jackson (SAMI 2027) - will participate in a summer internship with the Lifelong Kindergarten group, during which their main responsibilities will be to co-design coding activities and co-facilitate the workshops. In addition, the workshop facilitator, Jaleesa Trapp, grew up in Tacoma and attended Foss High School. She is now a PhD candidate at the MIT Media Lab in the Lifelong Kindergarten Research Group. Her current research focus is developing community-centered creative learning spaces to support marginalized youth and their families.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Equity and Accessibility: The Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media Lab develops innovative technologies and cultivates caring communities to engage young people from diverse backgrounds in creative learning experiences. The group is deeply committed to bringing about change in the world and improving the lives of young people, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable communities. Notable projects from the Lifelong Kindergarten group include The Computer Clubhouse Network, Scratch, Makey Makey, and Learning Creative Learning. The Summer Coding Workshop Series will focus on reaching a diverse group of participants and reinforcing stories from marginalized communities that are drawn from the Tacoma Public Library Summer Reading Program. In addition, the Summer Coding Workshop Series will grant Tacoma youth the opportunity to be among the first group of people to create using the new app.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the availability of industry-specific education programs to support identified growth sectors.

Education: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

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

Increase digital access and equity across the city.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

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.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

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

The Summer Coding Workshop Series will engage a diverse group of participants in an opportunity to expand their marketable skills and increase digital access across the city. When the Summer Coding Workshop Series concludes,



the iPads will be made available to be used at all the Tacoma Public Library branches for coding, animation, reading, and other creative learning activities. Having iPads available for Tacoma Public Library use will allow more young people to participate in library activities in a non-traditional way and may encourage them to explore other resources and activities the library offers. The technology currently available at the Tacoma Public Libraries does not allow for patrons to participate in collaborative creative learning activities, such as mobile coding or drawing/animating with tools such as Procreate and Scratch.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
Sponsor at a lower level	Preserve some additional contingency funds for other Council priorities.	The Summer Coding Workshop Series would need to purchase fewer iPads, limiting the number of participants they can include in the program.
Do not sponsor	Preserve contingency funds for other Council priorities.	The Summer Coding Workshop would need to find alternative funding and the iPads would not remain available for use at the Tacoma Public Libraries following the conclusion of the program.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP: These contingency funds are provided to sponsor the first Summer Coding Workshop Series in Tacoma, and contingency funds are intended as a one-time funding source. Event organizers will be provided with information on how to apply for future grants and event funding opportunities at the City of Tacoma during standard application cycles.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION: Sponsors recommend providing up to \$7,000 to sponsor the Summer Coding Workshop Series.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1030 – Council Contingency Fund	660000		Up to \$7,000
TOTAL			Up to \$7,000



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Council Contingency Fund

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

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

The Council Contingency Fund provides an established amount of funding each year for unbudgeted Council sponsored initiatives.

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

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

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

No

ATTACHMENTS:

None

2023 Council Contingency Commitments

2023-2024	\$	225,000.00
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Resolution 41151

Council requested - South Sound together	\$	12,000.00
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A Resolution authorizing 2023 membership in South Sound Together, in the amount of \$12,000.

Resolution 41150

Council Requested - Welcoming Interactive Conference Participation Sponsorship	\$	4,800.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference

Resolution 41163

Council Requested - Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Youth Summit 2023	\$	5,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma 2023 Youth Summit

Resolution 41162

Council Requested - Raising Girls Care Package Initiative	\$	10,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$10,000 to fund the Raising Girls Non-Profit Organization's "One Bag Drive" to support the creation and distribution of 500 care bags with essential hygiene items to youth and young adults in Tacoma.

Resolution 41161

Council Requested - Wheelstops	\$	12,500.00
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Contingency Fund of \$12,500 expenditure to install wheelstops along South D street, from S. 72nd to S. 74th on the east side of the street.

Resolution 41160

Council Requested - Khmer New Year Celebration	\$	10,000.00
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Council Member Bushnell provides the attached Council Action memorandum for a Resolution authorizing the use of \$10,000 of Council contingency funding to support the first annual Khmer New Year Celebration.

Resolution 41173

Council Requested - Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Conference	\$	20,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault conference for \$20,000.

Resolution 41181

Together We End Gun Violence Conference	\$	10,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Together We End Gun Violence Conference.

To Council June 13, 2023

Mitigating Impact of City's Light Rail Investment	\$	20,000.00
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Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support efforts to mitigate the impact of the City's light rail investment for the Hilltop Street Fair and Stadium Business District events.

To Council June 13, 2023

City of Tacoma 2023 Juneteenth Celebration	\$	2,500.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the City's 2023 Juneteenth Celebration.

To Council June 13, 2023

Summer Coding Workshop Series Sponsorship	\$	7,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of up to \$7,000 to sponsor the Summer Coding Workshop Series developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab and hosted by Tacoma Public Libraries.

To Study Session June, 13 2023

Buffalo Solider Museum Event Sponsorship	\$	6,000.00
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Council contingency fund expenditure of \$6,000 to sponsor the Buffalo Soldiers Museum's event, "Honoring Our Military Labor Force."

Starting Balance	\$	225,000.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	119,800.00
Current Balance	\$	105,200.00