



TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager
FROM: Tanja Carter, Community and Economic Development
COPY: Economic Development Committee
PRESENTER: Rebecca Solverson, Arts & Cultural Vitality Division Manager
SUBJECT: Tacoma Mall Subarea Art & Placemaking Plan Presentation
DATE: July 29, 2025

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this memo is to provide an informational briefing on the recently adopted Tacoma Mall Subarea Art & Placemaking Plan. In January 2025, the Tacoma Arts Commission adopted this Plan to guide the integration of art and placemaking within the Tacoma Mall Subarea over the next 10-15 years. This item is being brought forward to inform the EDC about the Plan's vision, key recommendations, and upcoming implementation considerations. No formal action is requested at this time.

BACKGROUND:

The Tacoma Mall neighborhood is designated as one of Tacoma's two Regional Growth Centers and is expected to experience significant growth in the coming decades. In 2018, the City adopted the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan to guide this transformation into a compact, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use neighborhood with improved access to healthy lifestyle choices, services, and multimodal transportation. One of the actions (CV-4) of the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan is to "Develop a public art strategy for this neighborhood that identifies resources, partnerships and opportunities to foster and support cultural expression, awareness of neighborhood history and a sense of place and local identity."

To support this vision, the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division initiated a call to artists in 2023 in partnership with Environmental Services to create an Art & Placemaking Plan. Artists Horatio Hung-Yan Law and Linda Wysong were selected to lead the art planning process, which included community engagement, workshops, and site analysis. Their final Plan provides a roadmap for integrating public art, green infrastructure, and creative placemaking to foster a healthier, more connected, and vibrant community.

ISSUE:

The Tacoma Mall Subarea Art & Placemaking Plan lays the groundwork to transform a historically car-centric, infrastructure-limited neighborhood into a thriving Regional Growth Center that considers placemaking and community cohesion. The area currently lacks sufficient public amenities, despite its significance as a regional Growth Center. The Plan articulates a vision and identifies specific opportunities for projects. This briefing is intended to orient the EDC to the Plan and next steps in implementation.

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.