



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Deputy Mayor Blocker & Members of the City Council
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Melanie Harding
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Mgr.; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Council Contingency Fund Request to support the Kinsey African American Art & History Collection and installation of a Black Lives Matter mural in Tollefson Plaza – July 20, 2021 Study Session Other Items of Business**
DATE: July 8, 2021

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to support the Kinsey African American Art & History Collection and installation of a Black Lives Matter mural in Tollefson Plaza.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Council Contingency Fund Request:

This Council Contingency Fund request would provide a \$5,000 sponsorship of the upcoming Kinsey African American Art & History Collection to be featured at Tacoma Art Museum as well as \$5,000 for installation of a Black Lives Matter mural.

To express solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and the City’s commitment to equity, Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Blocker, and some of their colleagues engaged in initial discussion on the installation of a Black Lives Matter street tattoo or mural in Tacoma in 2020. Also in 2020, Tacoma’s Human Rights Commission similarly expressed a desire for a Black Lives Matter mural to be painted in Tacoma. Building on these conversations, City’s of Tacoma’s Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality and the Office of Equity and Human Rights staff connected for initial discussions to discuss how the Arts Commission might support this work. Installation of a mural in 2020 was paused due to funding limitations and the inclement weather of late fall through early spring months.

In conversations with the Tacoma Art Museum (TAM), staff learned that there were resources and a desire to commission a mural in conjunction with the upcoming Kinsey African American Art & History Collection to be featured at TAM July – November 2021. The Human Rights Commission supported this collaborative effort with the Tacoma Arts Commission and TAM moving forward on the project in Tollefson Plaza.

There was a shared desire that the mural express solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement while celebrating the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. Artists are encouraged to draw from Tacoma’s history and imagined futures. The artist(s) will be selected through a competitive review process led by Tacoma Art Museum. Members of the Human Rights Commission and Tacoma Arts Commission will participate on the selection panel. The artist or artist team should have a clear idea of how they will engage the community and/or other Tacoma artists at any stage of the project from research, conceptualization, mural design, installation, or anything the artist(s) dreams up. It will be open for artists ages 18+ currently living or working in Tacoma who are best able to respond to the Black experience. Overall community engagement around this project is being finalized. The draft timeline has the mural being completed in Fall 2021, with an artist talk and reception hosted at TAM.

The Black Lives Matter movement, like the civil rights movements before it, has effectively articulated the injustices that exist nationally and locally at the intersections of race, class, and gender including mass incarceration, police brutality, poverty, unaffordable housing, income disparity, homophobia, gender inequality, poor access to healthcare, and educational outcomes. This mural will encourage Tacoma residents to recognize the plight suffered by people of color to obtain equality while at the same time continuing to challenge us to persevere in unity toward racial justice.

The current total budget for the project is \$20,000. Murals by their nature are not permanent, and it is estimated that this mural would last for up to 5 years. Because this is moving forward quickly, we request that the resolution allocating this funding be brought forward next week, on July 27, 2021.

Separately, Tacoma Art Museum approached Mayor Woodards about city support for the Kinsey African American Art & History Collection. This request would provide a \$5,000 sponsorship for that exhibit.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 10,000

ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS

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

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.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Chief Policy Analyst Melanie Harding at 253-591-5156 or melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:



Mayor

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

- 1.  POS# 3
- 2.  POS# 4

Mayor's initials N/A