



RESOLUTION NO. 40586

1 A RESOLUTION relating to Tacoma Creates; authorizing temporary modifications
2 to the Tacoma Creates program and existing Tacoma Creates contracts to
3 respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency on Tacoma's cultural
sector.

4 WHEREAS Tacoma's cultural sector has a significant impact on Tacoma's
5 economy and is particularly challenged by the impact of the COVID-19
6 pandemic, and

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8 WHEREAS the cultural sector will play an important role in bringing the
9 community together when that becomes possible; it is critical to sustain the
10 sector so that it is able to help sustain the community, and

11 WHEREAS the National Endowment for the Arts, the Washington State
12 Arts Commission, and the City of Seattle and its 4Culture Public Development
13 Authority have all announced economic relief packages that redirect
14 project/programming funding to immediate operational support to sustain the
15 cultural sector, and

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17 WHEREAS the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality ("OAVC") has prepared
18 a funding proposal that includes immediate short-term support coupled with a
19 plan for recovery to help cultural organizations and workers to stabilize,
20 contribute to social cohesion, and be positioned to assist with recovery, and

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22 WHEREAS OACV is proposing a combination of strategies that redirect
23 existing funding contracts (Tacoma Arts Commission and Tacoma Creates) from
24 programming to immediate operational support and distribute Tacoma Creates

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funding to cultural organizations for both short-term response and eventual
1 recovery efforts, and

2 WHEREAS, in addition, under the proposal, existing Tacoma Arts
3 Commission contracts with small arts organizations, creative businesses, and
4 working artists serve to support many freelance artists and creative businesses
5 that are not captured in Tacoma Creates Funding, and
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7 WHEREAS, though future sales tax collection is anticipated to be
8 impacted by the COVID-19 emergency, Tacoma Creates is currently positioned
9 to immediately infuse up to \$2 million into the local economy with dollars
10 collected to date, and
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12 WHEREAS the inaugural Tacoma Creates funding programs are currently
13 in review process, and a flexible and quick response to disperse this funding is
14 required to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on Tacoma's cultural
15 sector, and
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17 WHEREAS the OACV proposal recommends a three-part strategy to
18 provide immediate operational support to engage in efforts related to social
19 cohesion, recovery, and re-imagination in Tacoma's cultural sector, and
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21 WHEREAS the first strategy is to modify existing contracts of the Tacoma
22 Arts Commission that allow for use of the funding for sustaining operations that
23 provide public benefit, including appropriate modified reporting requirements, and
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25 WHEREAS the second strategy is to modify existing Tacoma Creates
26 Expanded Learning contracts that allow for use of the funding for sustaining
operations for teaching artists and cultural sector instructors, including allowing



1 participation in Kids Camps for First Responders, and which provide public
2 benefit, with appropriate modified reporting requirements, and

3 WHEREAS the third strategy is to contract with the Greater Tacoma
4 Community Foundation to process up to \$2 million dollars in funding, if available,
5 to Tacoma cultural organizations that are eligible under the established Tacoma
6 Creates criteria and processes, to provide for sustaining operations that provide
7 public benefit, including appropriate reporting requirements; Now, Therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

9 Section 1. That the City Council finds that cultural sector organizations
10 and independent workers in Tacoma are experiencing severe negative impacts
11 related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the sector's work is based in events
12 and classes, all of which have been cancelled or postponed, creating significant
13 risk of loss of cultural organizations and artists. Individuals in the cultural sector
14 are often self-employed or have additional employment in the service sector,
15 which is also largely shut down. Most Tacoma non-profit cultural organizations
16 operate on thin margins, and most do not have endowments or other safety nets
17 to sustain them. The cultural sector has significant economic impact in the City of
18 Tacoma, and will play an important role in bringing the community together when
19 that becomes possible; therefore, it is critical to sustain the Tacoma cultural
20 sector so it is able to help sustain the Tacoma community overall.

21 Section 2. That the City Council finds that the three-part strategy
22 proposed by the City's Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality to sustain Tacoma's
23 cultural sector through operational support, which will allow the sector to engage
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1 in efforts related to social cohesion, recovery, and re-imagination, is consistent
2 with the intent, purposes, and regulations of the Tacoma Creates program, will
3 serve an important public purpose, and will provide public benefits
4 commensurate to the proposed expenditures.

5 Section 3. That the City Council hereby authorizes and approves the
6 modification of existing contracts of the Tacoma Arts Commission to allow for use
7 of the funding for sustaining operations that provide public benefit, with
8 appropriate modified reporting requirements; the modification of existing Tacoma
9 Creates Expanded Learning contracts to allow for use of the funding for
10 sustaining operations for teaching artists and cultural sector instructors that
11 provide public benefit, with appropriate modified reporting requirements; and a
12 contract with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to process up to
13 \$2 million dollars in funding, if available, to Tacoma cultural organizations that
14 are eligible under the established Tacoma Creates criteria and processes, to
15 provide for sustaining operations that provide public benefit, including appropriate
16 reporting requirements, all in forms approved by the City Attorney's Office.
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19 Section 4. That the City Manager or designee is hereby authorized to take
20 any additional actions and execute any documents necessary to effectuate this
21 Resolution consistent with its terms.
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Section 5. That the City Council finds that this Resolution is necessary,
routine, and consistent with Governor Inslee's emergency proclamation issued
March 24, 2020, suspending portions of the Open Public Meetings Act for
30 days.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney