



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

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Robert Thoms and Council Assistant Lynda Foster  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre,  
City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** Dickens Festival at Stadium  
**DATE:** November 14, 2019

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**I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support the Stadium Historic Business District's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dickens Festival at Stadium on December 14, 2019, throughout the Stadium District.**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:**

The idea for the Dickens Festival at Stadium was created by Mario and Frances Lorenz and begun fifteen years ago in December of 2004. They brought the idea to Tacoma after spending many years working with the Dickens on the Strand Festival in Galveston, Texas which uses the festival to call attention to their historical neighborhood. Today a team of Tacoma volunteers works to create the Dickens Festival at Stadium.

Dickens called for greater generosity in his community; likewise, the Dickens Festival provides a free family festival that affords families the opportunity for holiday celebration and appreciation of the community where they live. As one supporting dentist said, "The Dickens Festival brings people together from all cultures in a unifying experience."

This will be the Stadium District's 15th year of organizing the Dickens Festival. For years it has been sustained by business and community sponsorships. Due to the economic impacts of ongoing construction in the Stadium District, there has been a decrease in sponsorships this year and the Festival is seeking alternative funding methods in order to maintain the level of service expected from this event. Funds raised for the Festival go to audio/visual equipment, staging, entertainment, Roving Dickens Characters, horse and carriage rides, promotion, signage, and other marketing for the event. The Festival is requesting that the City of Tacoma provide \$5,000, out of their budget of \$19,300.

Depending on weather, attendance ranges from 500-3,000. This year the Festival continues to collaborate with Metro Parks, Tacoma which provides support for a "Victorian Days" at W.W. Seymour Conservatory. The Festival promotes sponsorships from many businesses and organizations. Sponsors are advertised on a website: dickensfestival.net, through a festival program and on social media. Stadium businesses also support Dickens through their participation in Open Houses and various contests.

Dickens Festivals have economically and culturally benefitted many cities and towns in the US and abroad including Salt Lake City, Utah, Holly, Michigan, Riverside, California, Galveston, Texas, Garrison, North Dakota as well as international cities like London, England, Deventer, Holland, and Kent, England.

It is anticipated that this event will be expanded in the future through fundraising, year round educational programming, and future festival design that emphasizes the historic and international aspect of Dickensian London and through support from other funding sources.

**ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:**

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity  
Decrease the number of vacant properties downtown and in the neighborhood business districts.  
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

**Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score:* High 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.  
Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

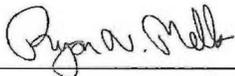
**Livability:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity  
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or [Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org](mailto:Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org).

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member Thoms

**SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES**

1.  \_\_\_\_\_ POS# 8

## 2019-2020 Council Contingency Commitments

<b>2019-2020 Biennium Budget</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
	Committed
<b>Community Work Force Agreement Task Force Support</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<i>Adopted on January 22, 2019, Resolution No. 40216 (DM McCarthy)</i>	
<i>Supporting and facilitating ongoing efforts of the CWA Taskforce</i>	
<b>Tenant Outreach and Education Support</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<i>Resolution No. 40241 adopted February 6, 2019 (CM Beale)</i>	
<i>Supporting Tenant Outreach and Education through Contracts with Tenants Union of Washington and Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee</i>	
<b>Installation of a Rain Garden for Orca Health</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<i>Resolution 40296 adopted April 16, 2019 (added to ESD Contract with Pierce Co Conservation District) (CM Beale)</i>	
<i>Installation of a Rain Garden for Orca health at one or more Tacoma Schools</i>	
<b>2019 Tacoma Reads Together Events</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<i>Resolution No. 40310 adopted on April 23, 2019 (CM Ushka)</i>	
<i>Book reading, discussion and signing events with author Tommy Orange for the novel <i>There There</i></i>	
<b>Funding for KNKX 88.5 FM Radio</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
<i>Resolution No. 40426 adopted September 10, 2019 (CM Mello)</i>	
<i>Funding for the renovation of the CN Gardner building and technical operations ( 8/20/19 Study Session)</i>	
<b>Funding for Calavera Collective's Día de los Muertos Celebration</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Resolution No. 40444 adopted October 8, 2019 (CM Ushka) Funding to support Calavera Collective's Dia de los Muertos celebration. (10/1/19 Study Session)</i>	
<b>6th Avenue Santa Parade Funding</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Shared at October 29, 2019 Study Session (Council Member Hunter). Funding to support the cost of traffic control devices for the 2019 Santa Parade on Sunday, December 8th.</i>	
<b>2019-2020 Biennium Budget Remaining</b>	<b>\$370,000</b>
<b>Contingency Requests Awaiting Consideration</b>	
<b>Dickens Festival at Stadium</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<i>Funding to support the cost of the Dickens Festival on December 14th at the Stadium District, which calls attention to this hisotrical neigorhood and is a free family event for the community.</i>	