



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Jamika Scott and Christina Caan, Policy Analyst
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Council contingency fund request to sponsor Tacoma Porchfest
DATE: April 29, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

A resolution authorizing a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 sponsor Tacoma Porchfest.

COUNCIL SPONSORS

Council Member Jamika Scott, Council Member Kristina Walker, Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh, and Council Member John Hines

Council Contingency Fund Request: I ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor Tacoma Porchfest, produced in partnership with Central Neighborhood Council, North End Neighborhood Council, and the Sixth Ave Business District. Tacoma Porchfest is a beloved community festival that will take place in Central Tacoma (south of 6th Ave) and North Tacoma (north of 6th Ave) on July 12 and 13. Tacoma Porchfest's mission is to build community, celebrate Tacoma's neighborhoods, and connect neighbors through a free, walkable, and accessible celebration of diverse live music and performances. The festival matches musicians and performers to a porch stage in a walkable 6 by 6 block festival zone. Porch stages are often within eyesight of each other, encouraging attendees to meet neighbors, find pride in their neighborhood, and experience performances they may not usually encounter.

- Every genre of music is welcome at Porchfest, from “main act” bands to backyard tinkerers. Porchfest also features non-music performance such as stand-up comedy and poetry readings. This inclusive approach draws in artists from all walks of life and positively increases the festival's diversity.
- For families with younger children and all who are young at heart, one street of the festival zone will be closed off to traffic to allow for a family-friendly activity street administered by local youth development-focused organizations including Greentrike (invited), Parks Tacoma (invited), Tacoma Public Library (confirmed), and the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties (invited).
- Tacoma Porchfest offers a unique experience and helps build healthy and vibrant communities by embedding the festival experience in neighborhoods. Diverse groups of attendees are welcomed into private yards to enjoy music and dance. Once there, community and new relationships are activated through conversations and meaningful connections around a shared love of music and performance art.

The City of Tacoma's sponsorship would be acknowledged through the use of the City logo on advertising and promotion materials. Tacoma Porchfest is also offering the City the opportunity to host a resource booth at no charge during the festival. Such a booth would allow City staff to connect with thousands of festival attendees to share resources and information about City services. This festival also helps advance a number of goals and priorities outlined in several of the City's strategic plans:

- Tacoma Porchfest aligns with several of the priorities in the City's ArtFull Tacoma strategic plan, including increasing participation in arts and culture, embracing Tacoma's diversity, and strengthening arts and



cultural assets.¹ The festival helps drive Tacoma's creative economy as well, especially by enabling musicians and performers to reach new audiences and network amongst each other.

- Tacoma Porchfest advances key goals in the City's Economic Development Strategic Plan, including expanding economic gains for local businesses by activating and bringing thousands of people from across Tacoma and beyond to the Sixth Avenue area.²
- Tacoma Porchfest advances several of the City's livability and community building goals outlined in the Tacoma 2025 Framework.³ Tacoma Porchfest creates community by fostering connections that are made when neighbors walk into each other's yards and introduce themselves, sometimes for the first time. Tacoma Porchfest also serves to activate neighborhoods and inspires yard sales and block-party-style cookouts during the festival.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tacoma Porchfest has been growing steadily since its kickoff in 2022, when it featured 50 bands on 35 porch stages. In 2023, the festival doubled in size featuring nearly 100 bands on 55 porch stages. In 2024, the festival doubled again to more than 200 bands on 65 porch stages, with an estimated 8,000-10,000 attendees, and continued growth is anticipated in 2025. This event is being advertised citywide and is free to the public, making it highly accessible for all. This year, Tacoma Porchfest will also straddle the north and south sides of Sixth Ave on consecutive days for the first time due to growing attendance by the community.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Equity and Accessibility: Tacoma Porchfest is specifically designed for accessibility and inclusivity. It is walkable, bikeable, and wheelchair accessible. The festival also incorporates youth programming to make it accessible for families with children. By expanding into North Tacoma, Tacoma Porchfest will also be able to support more performers and widen the range of community member participation. In addition, Tacoma Porchfest welcomes non-traditional, experimental, and historically marginalized performers, and the festival has become known among the music community as being a safe space for BIPOC and queer performers and musicians whose music is excluded from other similar festivals outside Tacoma. The event organizers strive to portray a welcoming, inclusive, and friendly tone in all communications and advertising.

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

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

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

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

¹ [City of Tacoma -- ArtFull Tacoma Strategic Plan](#)

² [City of Tacoma -- Economic Development Strategic Plan](#)

³ [City of Tacoma 2025](#)



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ALTERNATIVES

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Do not fund the sponsorship	Council would preserve contingency funds for other priorities.	The event organizers may need to reduce the scope and scale of the event, making it potentially less accessible to the community and providing less community benefit.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP

The City of Tacoma will receive the sponsorship benefits outlined above and provide information on how to apply for the Special Events Funding Program Application in future years.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION

Sponsors recommend providing \$10,000 in Council contingency funds to sponsor Tacoma Porchfest.

FISCAL IMPACT

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1030 – Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$10,000
TOTAL			\$10,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Council Contingency Funds

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

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

Contingency Commitments

		Funding Amount
2025		\$ 321,709.00
Resolution 41610		
Council Requested - Golden Gloves Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to support the 76 th Annual Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament in Tacoma.		
Substitute Ordinance 29002		
Grand Cinema Capital Campaign	\$	50,000.00
Dedicate \$50,000 of the 2025-2026 Budget for Council Contingency to the Grand Cinema Capital Campaign for improvements to the Merlino Building.		
Substitute Ordinance 29002		
Rebuilding Hope Capital Campaign	\$	25,000.00
Dedicate \$25,000 of the 2025-2026 Budget for Council Contingency for the Rebuilding Hope Capital Campaign.		
To Council May 13, 2025		
Tacoma PorchFest	\$	10,000.00
Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor Tacoma Porchfest.		
Starting Balance	\$	321,709.00
Total Amount Allotted	\$	95,000.00
Current Balance	\$	226,709.00