



Resolution No. 40808
Tacoma Totem Pole
Rescission of Landmark Status
City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services
City Council Meeting
June 29, 2021
Item #16



1

Present Day



2

2

Historic Image



3

3

Location



4

4

Review and Discussion



History:

- Commissioned in 1903; carved by unknown persons (Native origin believed unlikely)
- Designated Landmark 1975

Recent Discussion:

- Tacoma Arts Commission removed from arts collection February 2021
- Deaccession Panel recommended removal from Register of Historic Places
- Landmarks Commission hearing May 2021 to receive comment on rescission of historic designation per Tacoma Municipal Code
- Study Session presentation June 29, 2021

5

5

Findings & Recommendations



Findings:

- Tacoma Totem Pole is inauthentic and is an example of cultural appropriation
- Status as a City Landmark is harmful to the community and counter to the City's commitment to antiracism and reconciliation

Recommendation:

- The Landmarks Preservation Commission recommends the Tacoma Totem Pole be removed from the Tacoma Register of Historic Places
- Staff concurs with this recommendation

6

6

Next Steps



- Pole to be removed from Firefighter's Park ~August 2021
- Disposition of the pole per Municipal Arts Collection Deaccession Policy (Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality)
- Final treatment of site to be determined

7

7



Resolution No. 40808 Tacoma Totem Pole Rescission of Landmark Status

City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services
City Council Meeting
June 29, 2021
Item #16

8