



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager
FROM: Council Member Sandesh Sadalge and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPY: City Clerk and City Council
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Contingency Fund Request of \$15,000 for “Grit of Destiny: City of Tacoma” Documentary – August 19, 2025**
DATE: August 7, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$15,000 for a “Grit of Destiny: City of Tacoma” documentary to showcase the cultures, histories, and aspirations of Tacoma.
[Council Member Sandesh Sadalge]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards, Council Members Diaz, Sadalge, and Scott

BACKGROUND:

Tacoma is more than a city—it’s a living mosaic of cultures, histories, and aspirations. Across its neighborhoods, from the Eastside to the waterfront, the people of Tacoma are writing a powerful story of identity, resilience, and transformation. As Tacoma nears its 150th anniversary, it stands as a city defined by resilience, creativity, and a deep sense of purpose. “Grit of Destiny” is a documentary that chronicles Tacoma’s journey—from its industrial roots to its rise as a diverse, culturally rich, and forward-looking city. This film will demonstrate that Tacoma is a viable location for film production and the contractor aims to use it to attract national and international creative producers to Tacoma.

This resolution directs the City Manager to negotiate a contract with Syed K Jamal, or an affiliated business, for this project. The contractor will create a documentary to spotlight real voices—artists, elders, small business owners, students, and community leaders, capturing the energy and diversity that make Tacoma thrive. Through their stories and lived experiences, this documentary will explore how the city is evolving from the ground up. A centerpiece of the story will be the inaugural Festival of Light at the Eastside Community Center, a vibrant celebration of intercultural unity, creative expression, and community leadership. The event represents Tacoma’s emerging role as a city that leads with both soul and substance while embracing global cultures. The documentary will be presented both online and during a screening, organized by the contractor.

Syed K Jamal, as the contractor, will credit the City of Tacoma in all promotional materials related to the funded project. Where possible, the City of Tacoma logo should be used. The contractor, as author of the Artwork, shall retain all copyrights to the Artwork, provided that the contractor grants the City perpetual irrevocable license to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform, display and create derivative works of the work, but only for noncommercial education, public information, and other governmental purposes. Deliverables should be complete by end of year 2026.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Council Members have received this request from Syed K Jamal. The contractor will request community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, APCC, Visit Pierce County, Travel Tacoma, Park Tacoma and others to showcase it on their channels and social media. Because the contractor’s goal is to attract national and international creative producers to Tacoma, this film could become a part of Tacoma’s visual presentation at events like WAVES in India, Cannes in France, and film markets across several regions in Europe and Asia.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: *(Mandatory)*

Tacoma is a vibrant and culturally diverse City, with approximately 45% of it's population being BIPOC or two and more races. Local history records and archives can be an important tool for preserving and celebrating community identity. However, a closer examination reveals that historic preservation can have a complex and multifaceted relationship with racial justice. Preservation efforts can perpetuate racial inequality by prioritizing the histories and cultural heritage of dominant groups, while erasing or marginalizing the experiences of communities of color. On the other hand, preservation can also be a powerful tool for promoting racial justice, by providing a platform for marginalized voices and stories to be heard and celebrated.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Representation at public meetings will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community
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.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Now more than ever, showcasing our cultural diversity is critical to creating a welcoming environment for all residents of Tacoma. This project will dig into the roots of what makes the City culturally rich, and will highlight how residents of all backgrounds contribute to the vibrancy of Tacoma. The completed project will be available via multiple media channels to be accessible to broader groups of people who receive information via new and traditional media channels.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Direct this funding request to existing arts program funding opportunities	Funding for arts and culture projects is determined through a competitive scoring process; preserve contingency funds for other Council priorities	Miss an emerging opportunity to support a timely arts project

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Contingency funds are intended as a one-time funding source. The contractor will be provided with information on how to apply for future grants and arts funding opportunities at the City of Tacoma during standard application cycles, including the Community Arts Projects funding, Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding, and Tacoma Creates funding.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The sponsors recommend the City Council pass this resolution allocating \$15,000 from the Council contingency fund for the creation of the "Grit of Destiny: City of Tacoma" documentary.



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FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1030- Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$15,000
2.			
TOTAL			\$15,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

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

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution

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.	
Resolution 41681	
Tacoma Porchfest	\$ 10,000.00
Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor Tacoma Porchfest.	
Resolution 41968	
South Tacoma Green Blocks Program	\$ 15,000.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$15,000 to Supplement the \$30,000 South Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Booster funding to conduct a full green blocks-scale program in the South Tacoma Neighborhood.	
Resolution 41724	
Historical Society 2025 Destiny Dinner Sponsorship	\$ 10,000.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure in the amount of \$10,000 to support the Tacoma Historical Society's 2025 Destiny Dinner.	
Resolution 41723	
BIPOC Health & Wellness Fair	\$ 5,000.00
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure in the amount of \$5,000 to support the 2025 BIPOC Health & Wellness Fair.	
To Council August 19, 2025	
Grit of Destiny Sponsorship	\$ 15,000.00
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$15,000 for a "Grit of Destiny: City of Tacoma" Documentary	
To Council August 12, 2025	
	\$ 50,000.00
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$50,000 for staffing and facilitation of the Tacoma Labor Standards Task Force.	
Starting Balance	\$ 321,709.00
Total Amount Allotted	\$ 190,000.00
Current Balance	\$ 131,709.00