



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

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Kristina Walker and Policy Analyst Christina Caan
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Council contingency fund request sponsoring Alchemy Skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund**
DATE: September 18, 2024

I ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Alchemy Skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Council Contingency Fund Request: I ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Alchemy Skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund. Alchemy is currently in the process of identifying and moving into a larger facility better suited to serve their continually growing community and maintain Alchemy as a regional hub for skateboarding, positive youth development programs, and alternative creative-cultural community interests. Alchemy provides a much-needed positive outlet for youth in Tacoma and is an important partner in our efforts to reduce youth violence and build confidence, creativity, and grit in our young people. The youth access fund provides financial assistance for Alchemy programming and park access to those in need under the age of 24.

- Alchemy has created skate-based curriculum for in and out of school time learning, partnered with local high schools to offer credit bearing skate classes, worked with the county’s Juvenile Court system to provide positive youth development programs to court-connected and at-risk youth, pioneered career development skill building opportunities related to art, advocacy, building, and design through an innovative after-school leadership program, and worked to teach 1,000’s of youth and adults how to skate.

Alchemy currently operates the only public indoor skate park in Pierce County and one of only four in Washington state. The 3,000 sq/foot building contains a 2,000 sq/ft skate space with ramps and skate features, a small program workshop, and a 1,000 sq/ft skateboard shop for participants, skaters, and community members to access high quality equipment, knowledge, and support. In addition to providing regular and affordable access to this indoor skate space, Alchemy also brings skateboarding out to the community by hosting or supporting public events with free skateboard programming, including pop-up skateboard ramps, boards and safety equipment, and instructors who help many first-time skaters safely experience the joy of skating.

With expanded facilities, Alchemy could accommodate more participants, reduce wait times, and offer a greater variety of youth programs. A larger space would also enable Alchemy to host bigger community events and workshops, fostering greater community engagement and cohesion. Enhanced facilities would provide more opportunities for educational outreach, integrating

skateboarding with other disciplines like art, design, and urban planning on a larger scale. This expansion would not only support physical activity and creativity but also contribute to the personal and professional development of participants, ultimately strengthening the cultural fabric of Tacoma and beyond. The youth access fund would also help ensure that all young people can access Alchemy’s programming and resources. Alchemy would include the City of Tacoma logo and name as a sponsor.

FUNDING REQUESTED: \$10,000

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: October 1, 2024

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Alchemy has a track record of more than ten years of impactful programs, innovative approaches to non-profit management, and a strong list of community non-profit partners/collaborators. Their participant numbers are also growing each year. Alchemy has served more that 6,500 participants in various programs this year and has offered more than 2,400 hours of programming.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Equity and Accessibility: The need for challenging, fun, engaging, physical activities for young people in Tacoma continues to grow, and Alchemy has demonstrated how well-suited skateboarding is to meet this need. The facility offers public access six days per week and the youth access fund helps to ensure flexible pricing and scholarships for youth that are 24 years old and under to ensure accessibility for all.

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.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicators?
 Alchemy aims to help build a future where skateboarders are recognized as positive contributors and an integral part of our vibrant community. By providing young people with valuable programming and the chance to learn skateboarding, Alchemy is having a positive impact on our community. In addition, Alchemy’s mission is to support skateboarders on their journey and provide a framework and structure for them to improve the quality of their own lives and the lives of everyone in our community. By expanding their space, Alchemy can serve even more people in Tacoma and continue to foster learning, positive experiences, and joy for youth in our city.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Provide less funding	Preserve some additional contingency funds for other Council priorities.	Alchemy would need to find alternative sources of funding to help with their expansion project and youth access fund.
Provide more funding	Alchemy may be able to increase additional services for	The Council would not have additional funds for other Council priorities.

	youth in need and expand faster.	
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EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

These contingency funds are intended as a one-time funding source this year for the Alchemy Skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund. Alchemy will be provided with information on how to apply for future grants and event funding opportunities at the City of Tacoma during standard application cycles.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION

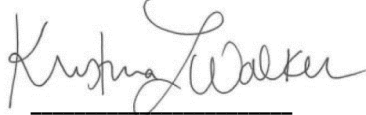
Sponsors recommend providing \$10,000 for the Alchemy Skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$10,000 from Council contingency funds.

If you have a question related to the Council contingency fund request, please contact Christina Caan, Policy Analyst, at (253) 219-0679 (phone) or ccaan@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:



Council Member Kristina Walker

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES

1.  POS# 6

2.  POS# 2

Mayor's initials Victoria R. Woodards