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

TO:	Mayor & City Council
FROM:	Council Member Olgy Diaz and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPIES TO:	Hyun Kim, City Manager; Allyson Griffith, Deputy City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT:	**Resolution – allocating $16,000 in Council Contingency funds to support the 2026 SavorFest PNW**
DATE:	June 25, 2026

I ask for your support for a resolution allocating $16,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the 2026 SavorFest PNW.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:
SavorFest PNW is a free, family-friendly annual festival, in partnership with local non-profit Mi Centro that celebrates the vibrant ethnic, culinary, and cultural traditions of the diverse communities who call the Pacific Northwest home. The 2026 event will occur on Sunday, July 19, with an anticipated attendance of 2,000 – 3,000 people. The festival brings together a rich tapestry of communities to showcase artistry, food, and music that define the region. It specifically aims to amply and spotlight local BIPOC chefs, food vendors, artists, and performers, providing visibility and economic opportunities for underrepresented entrepreneurs.

The event will include:

- Cooking classes: attendees will be able to learn how to create cultural dishes from top Chefs in the area and bring these recipes home to share with friends and family.
- Dance/music performances: attendees will be able to experience cultural songs, instruments, and movements that may represent them and/or those in their community creating an inclusive experience.
- Food vendors: attendees will be able to taste and enjoy foods and drinks from cultures around the world, all in one place.
- Kids zone: a kids zone along with character appearances make the festival accessible and enjoyable for all ages.

Funding will go towards: partial and full scholarships to food vendors, supporting chef led cooking classes, securing performers and entertainment for all ages, marketing and advertising, staging and entertainment equipment for performers, signage and décor, security and any equipment necessary for proper street closures to ensure safety for all attendees and vendors.

SavorFest PNW 2026 did receive the City of Tacoma sponsored event designation. Events designated as City of Tacoma Sponsored Events will be provided City-owned equipment on an as-available basis to support the traffic and crowd control and public safety of the event. City of Tacoma Sponsored Events remain responsible for all costs associated with City of Tacoma personnel or other services.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
$ $16,000

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: July 7, 2026

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):
Sponsors heard from several venders and community members about how much they appreciate the community built by Savor Fest and the desire for the city to continue to support more positive activation of activities in Hilltop.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:
Equity and Accessibility:
Tacoma is a multicultural city that celebrates its vibrant ethnic and culinary traditions. According to the Washington State Microenterprise association, the vast majority of micro-businesses are owned by entrepreneurs with limited incomes who are part of historically marginalized groups such as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants, women, veterans, rural populations, tribal groups, LGBTQA+ people, and people with disabilities. These populations face significant barriers to business success due to lack of financing, training, and other business support resources.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score*: Moderate Opportunity
Increase the number of diverse livable wage jobs.
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Livability: *Equity Index Score*: Moderate Opportunity
Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?
Festivals and free community events can serve as a "soft entry point" for entrepreneurs. Festivals that allow vendors can serve as an inexpensive way for entrepreneurs to get their products in front of the public, or for hobbyists to test an idea that may take them out of the garage and into the marketplace. Savor Fest PNW offers vender fee subsidies to keep vendor fees significantly lower than the current average food vendor fee of $400 at comparable events. They also offer partial/full scholarships to help bridge the gap for business owners who may need assistance. This crucial subsidy provides broader access to small, BIPOC-owned food businesses who face high initial operating costs.

The event's location is a key part of the experience, inviting people into a significant community hub. The festival is held at Mi Centro in Tacoma's Historic Hilltop Neighborhood. Attendees aren't just going to a generic park; they are being welcomed into a specific cultural center with "deep roots and rich histories." It introduces them to a vital community organization and a neighborhood, fostering a stronger sense of place and connection to Tacoma's diverse communities.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Provide more funding	Allow for a larger, more robust event	Less resources for other Council priorities

2. Defer to existing competitive funding processes for events	All applications are reviewed and ranked to determine funding	SavorFest PNW did not receive 2026 funding through these processes

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:
The City of Tacoma will contract with SavorFest PNW to provide the services outlined above. Savor Fest PNW will also be provided information on how to apply for the Special Events Funding Program Application in future years.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:
Sponsors recommend approving this contingency fund request to assist SavorFest PNW with their 2026 event, understanding that future Savor Fest PNW events will need to request City of Tacoma funds through the Special Events Funding Program Application, instead of through contingency fund request.

FISCAL IMPACT:
This resolution will allocate $$16,000 from Council Contingency funds.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or lfoster@Tacoma.gov.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____
Council Member Diaz

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)
(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1. _____ **POS#_____8____**

2. _____ **POS#_____3____**

Mayor's initials _____
(Mayor's initials for awareness only to ensure alignment and coordination of emergent policies.)

Contingency Commitments 2026

Resolution Number	Funding Amount
Resolution 41859	
Oasis Center	**$30,000.00**
Council Contingency Fund request of $30,000 to fund the Oasis Youth Center's HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 and older in Pierce County.	
Resolution 41864	
True Vine Community Church of God in Christ	**$25,000.00**
Council Contingency Fund request of $25,000 to sponsor the 5th Annual Citywide Block Party.	
Resolution 41881	
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project 2026 Gala Sponsorship	**$15,000.00**
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of $15,000 to sponsor the Northwest Immigration Rights Project's 2026 Gala and make a public declaration of solidarity with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project's values	
Resolution 41904	
Tacoma Film Task Force Sponsorship	**$10,000.00**
Council Contingency fund expenditure of $10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Film Task Force.	
Resolution 41932	
Ride Transit Month Sponsorship	**$10,000.00**
Resolution authorizing the one-time use of Council Contingency Funds, in the amount of $10,000, to sponsor Downtown on the Go's Ride Transit Month.	
Resolution 41933	
NextGen GM Sports Executive Internship	**$20,000.00**
A Council Contingency fund expenditure of $20,000 to sponsor the "NextGen GM Sports Executive Internship" pilot program.	
Resolution 41940	
Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast Sponsorship	**$1,000.00**
A one-time Council Contingency fund expenditure of $1,000 to sponsor the Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast	
To Council July 7, 2026	
Savor Fest PNW	**$16,000**
A resolution allocating $16,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the 2026 SavorFest PNW	
Starting Balance	**$259,328.56**
Allocated Funding	**$127,000.00**
Remaining Balance	***$132,328.56***