

Small Business and Neighborhood Revitalization

City of Tacoma

Community and Economic Development

**Economic Development Committee
October 10, 2017**



Overview

CED Coordinated Key Services and Programs into a Small Business and Neighborhood Revitalization Unit.

- Carol Wolfe, Unit Supervisor
- Debbie Bingham, Program Dev Specialist
- Kala Dralle, Program Dev Specialist
- Shari Hart, Program Dev Specialist
- My Nguyen, Program Tech
- Ricky Clousing, .5 FTE Program Tech

Overview

Key Program and Service Areas

- Neighborhood Business District Program
- Neighborhood Revitalization Project Area
- Neighborhood Council Program
- Special Event Permitting Office
- Permit/Business Ombudsman Services
- Small Business Assistance Services

Overview

Key Intra and Inter Departmental Partners

- TCRA Financing
- Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality
- Minority Business Development Agency
- Public Works
- Permit Center Staff (long and short range)
- Neighborhood and Community Services
- Special Events Committee



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LINKS ^TO OPPORTUNITY



TCRA SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING

- \$150k loan to Brewers Row in the Proctor District
- \$25k loan to Zodiac Supper Club

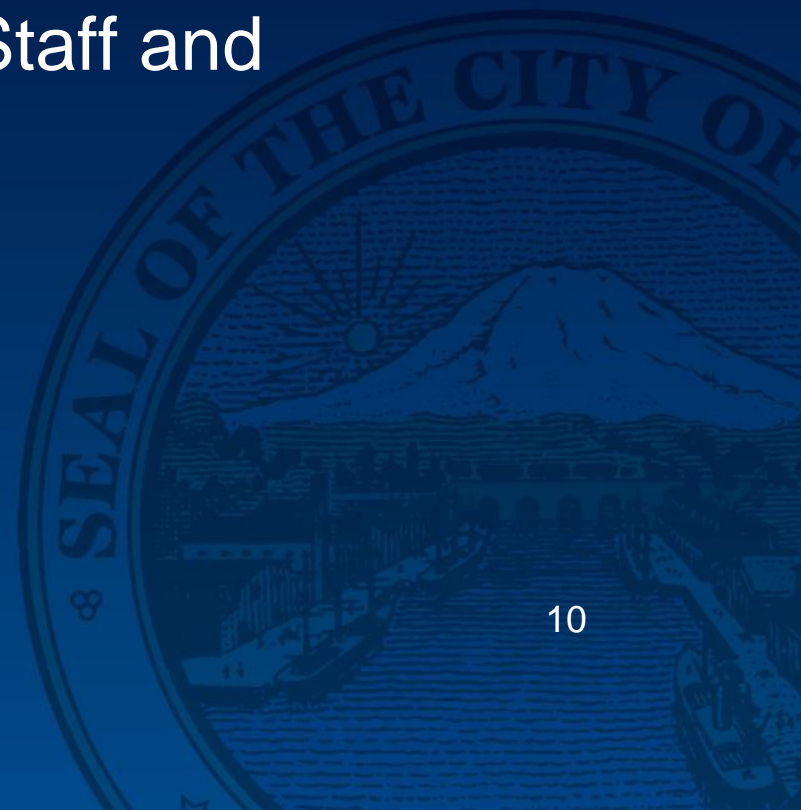


Business Loan Partnership Proposal

- Crafting a Partnership with Harborstone
- \$750,000 Loan Pool Guaranteed with \$150,000 UDAG
- Private Sector Underwriting
- Targeting Revitalization Areas – Leveraging Private Entrepreneurship with Public Investment
- Roll Out Q4 2017

Assistance Provided

- Technical Workshops for Commercial Leasing
- Partnership with MBDA Staff and Consultants
- Project Ombudsman
- Permit Focus Groups



Lessons Learned

- Workshops Labor Intensive with Small Audience Reach
- Existing Finance Tools Do Not Always Fit Some Small Business Needs
- Online Resources Difficult to Navigate
- Permit Process Favors Experienced and Larger Clients

Resulting Action

- Collaboration with MCO on Video Modules for New Microsite; TV Tacoma, Presentations, Partner Websites, YouTube, Social Media
- Partnership with Private Sector Lenders for New Tools Underwritten by Private Sector but Secured by City

Resulting Action

- Collaboration with CMO, MCO on Improvements to Microsite
- Increased Involvement in Pre-Application and Permit Process Improvements

Next Steps

- Roll Out Small Business Loan Program
- Direct Traffic to Updated CED Website
- Submit Recommendations to PDS on Permit Process
- Increase Recruitment and Retention outreach in Revitalization Areas
- Investigate BIA Conversations with Interested NBD's.

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