



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kim Bedier, Tacoma Venues and Events
COPY: Economic Development Committee; Lynda Foster
PRESENTER: Amy McBride, Arts Administrator, Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality
Michael Liang, Manager, Spaceworks Tacoma
SUBJECT: Spaceworks Update
DATE: September 11, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

This will be an update to the committee on the activities and strategies being implemented by Spaceworks Tacoma, including an introduction of Michael Liang, Spaceworks' new manager.

BACKGROUND:

Spaceworks Tacoma was established in 2010 as a joint initiative between the City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce designed to build the capacity of Tacoma's creative entrepreneurs and activate underutilized and ignored building spaces thereby energizing our community. Since launching in June 2010, Spaceworks has worked with over 575 artists and creative individuals and organizations in at least 44 spaces around Tacoma.

In 2017, Spaceworks Tacoma rebranded to better clarify its programs and services. Spaceworks offers 1) an incubator program to launch and support creative enterprises, 2) an Artscapes program that includes murals, window installations, and a downtown gallery, 3) coworking studio spaces downtown and on Hilltop, and 4) special projects, like public engagement campaigns with the Theater District and Links to Opportunity

In August, 2018, Spaceworks hired Michael Liang to replace Heather Joy as the Program Director. Michael Liang came to Spaceworks after a ten-year career as a designer and creative leader with the National Park Service. He provides vision and support to the Spaceworks staff and clients, helping the organization grow and strengthen as a pillar of Tacoma's creative community. Liang received a B.F.A. in art and design from the University of Michigan, a certificate in natural science illustration from the University of Washington, and is currently finishing his M.S.Ed. He is passionate about building community and tapping into the transformative power of the arts for social good.



ISSUE:

Arts and Cultural Vitality is one of 7 Key Focus Areas of Tacoma 2025 and Artfull Tacoma is the implementation plan to support a vibrant, inclusive community with a flourishing arts and culture sector. The Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality and Spaceworks Tacoma cooperate and coordinate to advance goals to make Tacoma a center for the arts and to grow and sustain the creative economy in service of nourishing a thriving and authentic community.

Spaceworks Tacoma: New Spaceworks Manager Michael Liang will update the committee on the structural and program changes designed to more effectively serve both emerging and established creative entrepreneurs as well as support entrepreneurs and businesses that do not self-identify as “creative”. In addition, he will share information on extended outreach throughout the community, and focused efforts toward creative placemaking, community engagement, and anti-displacement strategies for the Hilltop.

This year, Spaceworks made training, space, and technical assistance available to 275 artists, entrepreneurs, organizations, and community groups.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.