



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONTINGENCY FUND REQUEST**

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Ryan Mello and Council Assistant Rebecca Boydston
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File
SUBJECT: **KNKX 88.5 FM City Council Contingency Fund Request**
DATE: August 19, 2019

I ask for your support for a Resolution authorizing the following expenditure from the City Council Contingency Fund to be included on the earliest possible City Council meeting agenda.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

KNKX 88.5 FM requests \$45,000 from the Tacoma City Council to fund a new broadcast home in Tacoma's Theater District. This special, capital request would fund the renovation of the historic CN Gardner building, and the entire technical operations center necessary for KNKX's regional service. This funding would be contingent on securing sufficient funds for completion of the project and direct the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement for services with the terms and deliverables for the City's contribution.

KNKX (formerly KPLU) has served the Pacific Northwest since 1966, and is the region's leading source of jazz, blues and in-depth local and National Public Radio (NPR) news. Operating a network of 12 radio signals that cover Western Washington, KNKX reaches 500,000 listeners weekly, on-air and online. KNKX provides a Northwest perspective from a team of local journalists, and covers topics including education, homelessness and the environment. As news outlets continue to decline, KNKX's robust news programs continue to grow. The most recent addition to the news staff is South Sound Reporter, Will James.

KNKX became an independent station in 2016. The change followed an unprecedented community effort in which 20,000 listeners gave \$8 million to save the station. The terms of the sale, from Pacific Lutheran University to KNKX, require that the station move off the campus this summer. The need to find a new location has presented KNKX with an opportunity to make a greater impact and connection in the community. KNKX is moving to 930 Broadway, across from Tacoma Arts Live, next door to Tacoma's School of the Arts (SOTA), one-block from mass transit, and adjacent to the Broadway Farmers Market.

The new studio will be built to invite the community in and will enable KNKX to increase its music and news activities in Tacoma. This includes hosting live news, jazz and blues shows from the Control Room where Tacomans will be able to see live radio happening from the street. The project plans also include a "Living Room". A large, mixed use gathering space, the Living Room is where KNKX will host news events, music education clinics and free, live music performances. The Tacoma facility also includes three additional studios for hosting roundtable discussions on community issues, training students to record and edit stories, and producing content with local partners.

The new facility will expand KNKX's educational outreach and partnerships in the community. With proximity to area schools, and an upgraded facility, the Tacoma home will enable KNKX to expand its internships, music education activities, and create a new, innovative storytelling program for students. These opportunities will provide

youth with the experiences they need to pursue careers in media and the arts. KNKX will also partner with Tacoma Arts Live and use their existing venues for larger concerts and community forums, and organizations like the WA State Historical Museum and Channel 253, to tell more of the untold stories of the region. Through stories, events and the promotion of arts activities, KNKX also shines a light on Tacoma's arts community, increasing engagement and awareness in the arts.

The total cost of the KNKX Tacoma facility is \$3.7 million, with just over \$3 million raised to date. Funders include individual donors, local foundations and the State of Washington. A commitment from the City of Tacoma will help to secure future funding from additional foundations and is critical to KNKX's ability to reach the project fundraising goal. KNKX will begin broadcasting from the new facility at the end of August, 2019, with an opening celebration on September 7, 2019. This new facility will revitalize a long underutilized downtown space and support local independent journalism, education space for youth and adults and provide programming to encourage civil, civic dialogue to improve the quality of life for all Tacomans.

ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following (Check all that apply):

Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

FUNDING REQUESTED:

\$ 45,000

(Attach Council Contingency Fund Biennial Budget document.)




In you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Rebecca Boydston at 253-591-5164 or rboydston@cityoftacoma.org

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____


Council Member

SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS 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# Mayor
2.  POS# 4
3.  POS# 5

2019-2020 Council Contingency Commitments

[illegible]