



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

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Catherine Ushka and Council Assistant Lynda Foster  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** Día de los Muertos – Day of the Dead  
**DATE:** September 25, 2019

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**I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund request of \$5,000 to support Calavera Collective's Día de los Muertos celebration on November 2nd at the Eastside Community Center.**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:**

Día de los Muertos is a Mexican tradition that celebrates life and honors the legacy of those that have come before us, and is a reminder that no matter our gender, race, age, ethnicity, belief, or social status, we are all united when we journey to the end of this physical life. Organizers create a cross-cultural and unifying event celebrating all walks of life, and connecting people from different backgrounds through cultural appreciation. This event is a practice, not a performance, and all attendees are thus invited to participate in the dances, altars, workshops, and commemorations, which provide opportunities for enrichment and involvement throughout the day and into the evening, as well as enjoying traditional foods including Atole, tamales, pan de muerto, sugar skulls, and pozole.

This will be the Calavera Collective's third year organizing Día de los Muertos on the Eastside, and its first year organizing as part of the East Tacoma Collaborative Leadership Team. Attendance has grown since its inception in 2017. Attendance doubled from 60 in the initial year to 120 attendees in 2018. This year the organization anticipates 400 attendees based on collaboration across many groups including Metro Parks Tacoma, which will promote the event with its broad-reaching social media.

The Clavera Collective, as part of the Eastside Collaborative, is partnering with Harvest Peirce County as their fiscal sponsor. The anticipated cost of the event is \$12,750.00. To date, they have raised \$7,750.00 in funding as well as an in-kind donation for the event space at the East Side Community Center. The City has been supporting the growth and sustainability of local leadership in this area of the city via its participation with the Eastside Collaborative. Support for this event will be significant in expanding this event for broader public enrichment, supporting the growth of diverse leadership on the Eastside and improving and inviting access of all community members to the Eastside Community Center. It is anticipated that this event will be sustained in the future through fundraising and support from other organizations.

**ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:**

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following:

**Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score:* Low Opportunity

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

Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.

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:* Low Opportunity

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or [Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org](mailto:Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org).

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:



Council Member Ushka

**SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES**

*(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# 8

3.  POS# 6

## 2019-2020 Council Contingency Commitments

<b>2019-2020 Biennium Budget</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
Committed	
<b>Community Work Force Agreement Task Force Support</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<i>Adopted on January 22, 2019, Resolution No. 40216 (DM McCarthy)</i> <i>Supporting and facilitating ongoing efforts of the CWA Taskforce</i>	
<b>Tenant Outreach and Education Support</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<i>Resolution No. 40241 adopted February 6, 2019 (CM Beale)</i> Supporting Tenant Outreach and Education through Contracts with Tenants Union of Washington and Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee	
<b>Installation of a Rain Garden for Orca Health</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<i>Resolution 40296 adopted April 16, 2019 (added to ESD Contract with Pierce Co Conservation District) (CM Beale)</i> Installation of a Rain Garden for Orca health at one or more Tacoma Schools	
<b>2019 Tacoma Reads Together Events</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<i>Resolution No. 40310 adopted on April 23, 2019 (CM Ushka)</i> Book reading, discussion and signing events with author Tommy Orange for the novel <i>There There</i>	
<b>Funding for KNKX 88.5 FM Radio</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
<i>Resolution No. 40426 adopted September 10, 2019 (CM Mello)</i> Funding for the renovation of the CN Gardner building and technical operations ( 8/20/19 Study Session)	
<b>2019-2020 Biennium Budget Remaining</b>	<b>\$380,000</b>
<b>Contingency Requests Awaiting Consideration</b>	
<b>Funding for Calavera Collective's Día de los Muertos Celebration</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Funding to support Calavera Collective's Día de los Muertos celebration, a Mexican tradition that celebrates life and honors the legacy of those that have come before us. (CM Ushka 10/1/19 Study Session)	
<b>New Directions Crisis Residential Youth Center (currently tabled)</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
Funding for final phase of New Directions' project to install, finish and maintain furnishings and equipment to operate a crisis residential center for youth experiencing homelessness (CM Hunter 9/10/19 Study Session)	