



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Tanisha Jumper, Director, Office of Media & Communications
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety Committee; Linda Stewart, Neighborhood and Community Services Director
PRESENTER: Kenny Coble, Community Engagement Coordinator (CMO/MCO); Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator (TVE)
SUBJECT: Participatory Budgeting Pilot
DATE: January 23, 2020

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

This is to provide the Community Vitality and Safety Committee an update on the City of Tacoma's three participatory budgeting pilot projects.

BACKGROUND:

In order to increase civic engagement and trust in government, City staff is piloting three participatory budgeting (PB) projects that will result in engaged communities identifying concepts and voting on a set of vetted budget proposals. The winning proposals will be formally incorporated into the city's budget.

A number of Tacoma 2025's Civic Engagement goals focus around residents fully participating in decision-making, increasing the number of individuals who participate civically through voting, and increasing the number of individuals who feel like they can have a positive impact on their community.

Traditional methods of engagement make it difficult to equitably engage residents across the city. Community members who participate in City events tend to be older, whiter, more affluent, and (based off the equity index) live in parts of the city rated high in opportunity. Those traditional methods result in policies and programs that do not always represent the needs of those most disadvantaged across Tacoma.

This is why City Council asked a cross-departmental team to look into more meaningful methods of community and equitable civic engagement, specifically PB. PB is a democratic process where a steering committee of community members develop a scoped process with the City to help their fellow community members develop ideas, turn them into proposals and vote to select one of those proposals, which the City will fund and implement.

ISSUE:

The City of Tacoma is currently running three PB projects. One, located in East Tacoma, is funded by the General fund and facilitated by MCO and OMB. The other two projects, in 98404 and 98409, are funded by Tacoma Creates and facilitated by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. This presentation will provide on update on all three projects.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing only. No alternatives will be presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$100,000 per project, plus administrative costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing only.