



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kim Bedier, Director
COPY: Economic Development Committee; Tad Willie
PRESENTER: Amy McBride, Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality
SUBJECT: Tacoma Creates Advisory Board Appointment Process
DATE: February 11, 2020

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Please select the type of presentation you will be making to the Council Committee.

Other

SUMMARY:

An Advisory Board for Tacoma Creates is to be appointed by City Council. Interviews and recommendations for the Advisory Board are to be made by the Economic Development Committee. Chair Thoms requested a presentation on the criteria and process for interview recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

Tacoma Creates is a voter-approved initiative to increase access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences throughout Tacoma by reducing barriers to access and expanding offerings, particularly for underserved youth. Eligible non-profit arts, culture, heritage, and science organizations are able to apply for funding that helps them expand equitable access to public programs, increase opportunities in neighborhoods throughout Tacoma, expand educational options for youth, and build sustainability for ongoing cultural programs that provide value for residents throughout the City of Tacoma.

Ordinance #28626, defining local legislation for a cultural access program, passed unanimously by City Council on December 3, 2019. This legislation requires that an Advisory Board be appointed by City Council.

TMC 155.090

The Advisory Board will consist of 12 volunteer members appointed by City Council. All members will be residents of the City of Tacoma. All members will have interest in and familiarity with public programming in arts, culture, heritage, and/or science. All members will have an interest in Tacoma Creates goals regarding equity, access, and programs that provide public benefit for residents across Tacoma.

The Advisory Board, as a whole, will reflect the diversity of the City; board appointments will take into account racial and ethnic backgrounds, gender, age, and other aspects of personal and professional identity.

The Advisory Board shall consist of members who represent the following:

1. A community member from Council District 1.
2. A community member from Council District 2.
3. A community member from Council District 3.
4. A community member from Council District 4.



5. A community member from Council District 5.
6. Professional expertise in the arts.
7. Professional expertise in culture.
8. Professional expertise in heritage.
9. Professional expertise in science.
10. Professional expertise in Pre-K-12 public education in Tacoma.
11. Expertise in community engagement/community development
12. Youth Seat: A representative from the Mayor's Youth Commission.

ISSUE:

The Tacoma Creates Advisory Board received 48 applications. There are currently two dates reserved for interviews at the EDC on March 24 and March 31 with the goal to appoint and seat the board in time to meet the first Monday in May.

Considering the large number of applications and the complexity of seat assignments, staff has reviewed all applications considering the following criteria:

1. Geographic location, as required for seats 1-5
2. Areas of expertise, as required for seats 6-11
3. Racial/Ethnic background
4. Age
5. Level of familiarity with public programming in arts, culture, heritage, and/or science*
6. Level of Interest in equity, access, and programs that provide public benefit for residents across Tacoma*

*as determined by content provided in the application

The Mayor's Youth Commission will self-elect the youth seat and forward the name to the City Council for appointment.

Staff recommends interviewing about 20 applicants and has prepared a recommendation for a slate of interviewees based on considering the criteria above, that would enable a strong cohort with several candidates available for each seat appointment.

ALTERNATIVES:

Members of the EDC may review all applications and interview all applicants or determine an alternative method that appoints candidates qualified for the defined seats.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Interview about 20 applicants from the pool of 48. Take into consideration the recommendations of staff.