



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Kim Bedier, Tacoma Venues and Events (TVE)  
**COPY:** Government Performance and Finance Committee, Andy Cherullo, Finance  
**PRESENTER:** Amy McBride & Lisa Jaret, TVE/Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality  
**SUBJECT:** Tacoma Creates  
**DATE:** June 1, 2021

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

Staff will provide an overview of funding for Tacoma Creates that dedicates 1/10 of 1% of sales tax to increase access to arts, culture, heritage and science experiences throughout Tacoma.

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2018, Tacoma voters approved Tacoma Creates by 67.2%, passing in every reporting precinct. Tacoma Creates is the first Cultural Access Program under RCW 36.160 to be enacted in Washington State

The sales tax increase, authorized under Tacoma Creates, went into effect April 2019. The tax will be in place for seven years, at which point it must be renewed by Tacoma voters.

On December 3, 2019, the Tacoma City Council passed Ordinance 28626 which confirmed Tacoma Creates operations as a City of Tacoma program administered by the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality, defined program purpose, determined local eligibility, and established the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board.

Tacoma Creates is an 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 people throughout the City of Tacoma.

The primary funding goals are:

- Support public programs in arts, culture, heritage, and/or science that engage community members in Tacoma
- Increase access to these programs, and reduce barriers to participation, especially for historically underserved populations, and within neighborhoods across Tacoma



- Support programming by and for culturally or ethnically specific communities, and/or other underrepresented groups
- Expand access to youth education programs in arts, culture, heritage, and science
- Support the sustainability of Tacoma's cultural sector organizations

**ISSUE:**

Staff will provide an update on the use of funds to date as well as the competitive funding process and planned expenses. Sales tax revenue may be used to fund eligible non-profits in Tacoma whose primary purpose is to advance arts, culture, heritage and science who support the primary goals listed above as well as: program administration, capacity building, and transportation.

**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.