



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

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Jamika Scott and Christina Caan, Policy Analyst  
**COPIES TO:** Hyun Kim, City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** **Resolution – Council contingency fund request to sponsor the Tacoma Film Task Force**  
**DATE:** April 21, 2026

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**We ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Film Task Force.**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

**Council Contingency Fund Request:** We ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Film Task Force (FTF), organized and convened by the Grand Cinema. The FTF would work to help organize the film community and develop a set of recommendations for the City Council that are focused on enhancing and expanding the film industry in Tacoma.

- The Grand Cinema is committed to inclusive community collaboration and would aim to enlist a diverse membership that includes individuals with a broad range of perspectives and experience in the film industry. At least one student seat would also be included to help engage the film communities at local universities.
- The Grand Cinema has a wealth of experience managing programs and public discussions aimed at building community and sharing knowledge, including the Tacoma Film Camp, 253 Short Film Competition, and the Tacoma Film Festival.<sup>1</sup> The Grand Cinema is the only non-profit cinema in Pierce County and has been working to enhance cultural vitality through quality film and educational programming since 1997.<sup>2</sup>

Filmmaking can be a powerful economic development tool for cities. From commercials to feature films, filmmaking can foster a range of jobs, local businesses engagement, and tourism. While the film industry in Tacoma has energy and momentum, along with a talented and passionate filmmaking community, it continues to attract only a handful of film projects. A task force would help to better organize the film community and could evaluate options for helping the local film industry expand and advance closer collaboration with businesses and community members.

- In 2025, Seattle’s Office of Economic Development coordinated 360 film permits and reported that more than 4,000 local cast and crew had been hired to work on film projects.<sup>3</sup> The small town of Forks, Washington, saw a massive jump in tourism—from 10,000 people a

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<sup>1</sup> [The Grand Cinema: Special Events](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The Grand Cinema: Mission and History](#)

<sup>3</sup> [2025 Film Permit Data Seattle - Full Deck.pdf](#)

year to more than 70,000—due to the popularity of the Twilight film series, sparking robust revenue gains for local food, retail, and accommodation services.<sup>4</sup>

- Tacoma provides fantastic locations for filming, including both sophisticated and gritty environments often within a short distance, and has key infrastructure that the film industry requires, such as large hotels and convenient parking. However, Tacoma issued only 11 permits for filming in 2025.

The scope of work for the FTF would include developing proposals and recommendations for topics such as:

- Providing feedback on updating the Motion Picture Municipal Code;
- Providing feedback on streamlined film permit regulations to ensure the process for filmmaking in Tacoma is easy, accessible, and transparent;
- Developing a list of location and industry assets to help promote the city for filmmakers and attract new projects;
- Providing recommendations for updating the Tacoma Public Library’s visual media lab;
- Providing advice on a potential series of speaker events or incubator efforts to connect filmmakers and support skill building;
- Building a contact list of people involved in the film industry, including connections to local universities; and
- Connecting the film industry with local businesses; and
- Providing other general recommendations for expanding the film industry in Tacoma.

The City of Tacoma’s funding for the FTF would help advance key priorities identified in the 2035 Strategic Plan, including building a thriving, resilient, and strong economy with good jobs.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the FTF’s work would contribute to supporting the City’s Community and Economic Development (CED) Strategic Plan.<sup>6</sup> The CED Strategic Plan makes specific mention of supporting and expanding Tacoma’s entrepreneurial ecosystem and developing emerging industries, which aligns well with the aims of the FTF.

FUNDING REQUESTED: \$10,000

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: May 5, 2026

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council Member Jamika Scott has engaged in conversations with local community members involved in various aspects of film and hosted a community roundtable on the state of the film industry in Tacoma. Community members have stressed that the film industry in Tacoma has energy and momentum, along with impressive talent. They also shared strong support for a Film Task Force and finding ways to build and celebrate local talent and content. Council Member Scott also met with the Grand Cinema to discuss the vision and logistics for the Film Task Force.

### **2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**Equity and Accessibility:** The Grand Cinema is committed to extending opportunities to community, volunteers, patrons, and staff regardless of race, sex, age, orientation, gender identity,

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<sup>4</sup> [Why ‘Twilight’ has become immortal in this former Washington state logging town - OPB](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Tacoma Strategic Plan | City of Tacoma](#)

<sup>6</sup> [2026-2030 community and economic development strategic plan \(1\).pdf](#)

religion, veteran or marital status, national origin, ethnicity, culture, socio-economic class, ability, or professional status.<sup>7</sup> The Grand Cinema would work to include a diverse range of voices from the film making community on the FTF.

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

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:* Moderate Opportunity

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

**ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Do not support the Film Task Force.	Council would preserve the full amount of contingency funding for other priorities.	The film community and industry in Tacoma would continue to face difficulties organizing and overcoming barriers to attracting a robust number of film projects.
Support the Film Task Force at a higher amount.	The Grand Cinema could expand the scope of work and resources for the Film Task Force.	The Grand Cinema has not requested additional funds and providing a higher amount would further deplete contingency funds for other City Council priorities.

**EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP**

The FTF would share their recommendations and advice with the public and the City Council as available. The Grand Cinema would apply for Tacoma Creates or Special Event Funding to maintain the program in future years if desired.

**SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION**

Sponsors recommend providing \$10,000 in Council contingency funds to sponsor the Film Task Force.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

\$10,000 from Council contingency funds.

**If you have a question related to the Council contingency fund request, please contact Christina Caan, Policy Analyst, at (253) 219-0679 or [ccaan@tacoma.gov](mailto:ccaan@tacoma.gov).**




**SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:**

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**Council Member Jamika Scott**

<sup>7</sup> [The Grand Cinema: Mission and History](#)

**SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES**

1.  \_\_\_\_\_ POS# \_\_7\_\_

2.  \_\_\_\_\_ POS# \_\_5/Deputy Mayor\_\_

3.  \_\_\_\_\_ POS# \_\_6\_\_

Mayor Initials:  Anders Ibsen