



RESOLUTION NO. 41791

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS BUSHNELL, RUMBAUGH AND WALKER

2 A RESOLUTION authorizing the one-time use of funds, in the amount of
3 \$32,380.44, budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, to support the
4 Larchmont Community Schoolyard Project.

5 WHEREAS the Trust for Public Lands, Parks Tacoma, and Tacoma Public
6 Schools launched a mission to transform Tacoma's schoolyards to vibrant,
7 community spaces through the Community School Yard program, and

8 WHEREAS they are working to ensure that every person in Tacoma has a
9 quality park within a 10-minute walk of home by maximizing the use of existing
10 schoolyards to serve as improved play arenas and increasingly natural spaces for
11 children as well as adults, and

12 WHEREAS the first five pilot locations will serve more than 25,000 people in
13 Tacoma's South End and East Tacoma neighborhoods, and

14 WHEREAS, while the first four projects (Stafford Elementary, Reed
15 Elementary, Mann Elementary, and Whitman Elementary) have been completed, a
16 recent reversal in grant funding disrupted the construction of the Larchmont
17 Elementary Community Schoolyard, and

18 WHEREAS, despite this setback, the core project partners, Trust for Public
19 Lands, Parks Tacoma, and Tacoma Public Schools, each stepped up with
20 additional dollars to create a true community schoolyard park, and

21 WHEREAS they are short a small portion of the total \$912,380.55 projected
22 cost and the project partners reached out for potential participation by the City as a
23

24
25
26



1 great show of full community support for helping to fill the 10-minute walk gaps
2 within the City, and

3 WHEREAS, Larchmont Elementary's new community schoolyard would help
4 bring quality green space to over 1,000 nearby residents – addressing one of the
5 largest park access gaps of any major city in Washington, and

6 WHEREAS the schoolyard includes a simple playground and a well-worn
7 natural turf field, as well as a vacant grassy area that offers a multitude of
8 opportunities to bring the community's vision to life for this play space, and

9 WHEREAS students and neighbors already use the schoolyard regularly for
10 drop-in activities, most notably for cricket, and

11 WHEREAS the local community in Tacoma has been actively involved in the
12 design of each schoolyard park, and

13 WHEREAS participatory design sessions with students and community
14 members is an integral part of the program, as Parks Tacoma and The Trust for
15 Public Lands has continued to center communities as a core principle and goal of
16 the program, and

17 WHEREAS creating a green schoolyard in this space would fortify
18 community ownership and solidify the schoolyard as a community hub, and

19 WHEREAS, at the October 14, 2025, Study Session, Council
20 Member Bushnell shared a Council Consideration Request to authorize the one-
21 time use of \$32,380.44 from the Council Contingency Fund to support the
22 Larchmont Elementary Community Schoolyard, and
23
24
25
26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHEREAS City staff will negotiate and execute an agreement for services, with terms and deliverables for the City's contribution, and

WHEREAS RCW 35.34.250 and 35.34.260 authorize a withdrawal from the Council Contingency fund for any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of adopting the budget, and

WHEREAS Ordinance No. 22569 requires an affirmative vote of not less than six members of the Council in order to withdraw moneys from this fund; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the foregoing Recitals are hereby adopted as the City Council's legislative findings.

Section 2. That one-time funding in the amount of \$32,380.44, budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, is hereby approved for the purpose of supporting the Larchmont Community Schoolyard Project.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Section 3. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to confirm deliverables with Trust for Public Lands, Parks Tacoma, and Tacoma Public Schools, for the purposes hereinabove enumerated, and document as appropriate.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney