



TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager
FROM: David Pagel, Project Manager, Public Works Facilities Management
Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Interim Public Works Director *KDK*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Authorization to Submit a Grant Application with the Washington State Historical Society for the Tacoma Municipal Building Exterior Preservation – June 2, 2026
DATE: May 13, 2026

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing approval to submit a grant application to the Washington State Historical Society, Heritage Capital Projects for the Tacoma Municipal Building Historic Preservation project. The Heritage Capital Projects guidelines require a formal resolution from the governing body approving of the project, requested grant amount, and funding commitment as part of the grant application process.

BACKGROUND:

In February of 2026, the Washington State Historical Society opened the Heritage Capital Projects stage-one application window for the Washington State Historical Society's 2027 to 2029 biennium. The Public Works Department applied for stage-one review and has been provided the opportunity to apply for the stage-two, full grant application. In preparation for the submission of this application and to meet the application requirements Public Works is requesting Council's support and approval to pursue the Heritage Capital Project grant in the amount of one-million dollars. The Public Works Department recommends approval of this resolution as it will allow for the continued preservation of the historic Tacoma Municipal Building.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The Tacoma Municipal Building was officially dedicated January 29, 1931, as the Rhodes Medical Arts Building. The City purchased the building circa 1976, and the building was listed on the Tacoma and National Register of Historic Places in 1978. This grant opportunity aligns with the City's goal to preserve and maintain historic buildings for generations to come. On August 5, 2025, City Council approved Resolution No. 41729, awarding a contract for the initial phase of exterior preservation work that is currently underway. The Landmarks Preservation Commission has been provided updates on the project and have shared support for the preservation work. On October 8, 2025, the City issued a news release providing information on the project and has established a project website to provide ongoing updates.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

According to the City's Equity Index map, the Tacoma Municipal Building is located in a moderate opportunity area, demonstrating a need for continued investment. This project aligns with the strategic policy priority to assure outstanding stewardship of the built environment and the Tacoma 2035 goal area of Placemaking & Experiences.

Economy/Workforce: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.



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.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

This resolution will increase public access to history and enhance the public perception of the City’s stewardship of the built environment, quality of life, and the economy by providing grant funding opportunity to advance preservation work of an historic City building.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not apply for the grant	None	Loss of a potential funding opportunity.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

If this resolution is approved, the City will submit a grant to the Washington State Historical Society, Heritage Capital Project grant program. If a grant is awarded, a separate resolution will be presented for Council consideration to accept the grant.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The recommendation is to approve the proposed resolution to apply for grant funding to support implementation of Tacoma’s Historic Preservation efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This resolution will provide approval for an application to the Heritage Capital Projects grant from the Washington State Historical Society to advance preservation efforts to the historic Tacoma Municipal Building exterior. Through the Heritage Capital Project grant the State of Washington may reimburse up to 33.33% of total project costs and requires a 2-to-1 financial match.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
3211 Capital Project Fund (Budgeted)	GNF-00007-FS-AD-02	6311000	\$2,520,000
3211 Capital Project Fund (Grant)	GNF-00007-FS-AD-03	4334370	\$1,000,000
TOTAL			\$3,520,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

City appropriated funding has been budgeted in the Capital Project Fund. If funding is received via a grant award it will be deposited into the Capital Project Fund.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

If the grant is awarded, the revenues and expenditures will be budgeted at the next budget process opportunity.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO