



RESOLUTION NO. 41880

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR IBSEN, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS SCOTT AND
2 WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION recognizing the City Council's support of ensuring underspent
4 Tacoma Creates funds reach the community without delay; and endorsing
5 the Tacoma Creates fund balance above reserves spending plan for
6 eligible organizations in the 2026-2027 program year and extending it to
the 2027-2028 program year through the process and criteria in Tacoma
Municipal Code 1.55, which follows state law.

7 WHEREAS Tacoma Creates is a beloved citywide Cultural Access Program
8 designed to help eligible nonprofit organizations that have a primary purpose to
9 advance arts, culture, heritage, and science expand their programming offerings
10 and reduce barriers to participation, and

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12 WHEREAS Tacoma Creates was originally created with overwhelming voter
13 support and is funded by a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax, and in 2025,
14 the City Council reauthorized the sales and use tax to continue Tacoma Creates for
15 the next seven years due to the popularity and impact of this program, and

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17 WHEREAS since 2019, Tacoma Creates has provided over \$30 million in
18 funding to more than 100 cultural organizations, who in turn have produced more
19 than 5,000 programs and events, reaching more than four million participants, and
20 funded organizations consistently stress that Tacoma Creates is a vital lifeline and
21 a key tool for helping young people "develop skills that will serve them far beyond
22 the classroom," and

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24 WHEREAS since Tacoma Creates started collecting revenue in 2019, some
25 funding is contracted out each year but underspent, and those underspent funds
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1 remain in the Tacoma Creates Fund and have accumulated to approximately
2 \$2.5 million, and

3 WHEREAS Tacoma Creates has previously been dispersing some of these
4 underspent funds, with fiscal responsibility and continuity of services as a core
5 consideration for spending these one-time dollars, and
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7 WHEREAS beginning in the 2027-28 program year, Tacoma Creates staff
8 are required to use underspent funds as available to fund capital expenditures
9 through the process and criteria in Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") 1.55, which
10 follows state law, and
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12 WHEREAS this resolution aims to recognize the City Council's support for
13 ensuring underspent Tacoma Creates funds reach the community without delay;
14 and endorses the Tacoma Creates fund balance above reserves spending plan for
15 eligible organizations in the 2026-27 program year, and extending it to the 2027-28
16 program year, and
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18 WHEREAS this resolution would provide for the following:

19 (1) Provide recognition of the City Council's eagerness to ensure
20 underspent Tacoma Creates funds are reaching the community without delay in
21 support of programming efforts; and
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23 (2) Provide City Council endorsement for the Tacoma Creates staff
24 recommended fund balance above reserves spending plan for eligible organizations
25 in the 2026-27 program year and extending it to the 2027-28 program year, which
26 would include allocating up to an additional \$500,000 for both 2026-27 and 2027-28



1 in underspent Tacoma Creates funding to provide one-time support for eligible
2 organizations through the process and criteria in TMC 1.55, which follows state law;

3 (3) This one-time support may be used to help increase funding amounts
4 to previously funded organizations and/or increase the total number of
5 organizations funded;
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7 (4) No organization may receive funding beyond the allowable amount of
8 their selected category of funding; and

9 (5) Organizations shall be informed of the one-time nature of these
10 additional funds with the expectation that once these one-time fund balances are
11 spent, the funding levels will return to sustainable levels supported by recurring
12 revenues within the Tacoma Creates Fund; Now, Therefore,
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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the City Council expresses its support for ensuring underspent Tacoma Creates funds reach the community without delay; and endorses the Tacoma Creates fund balance above reserves spending plan for eligible organizations in the 2026-2027 program year, and extending it to the 2027-2028 program year through the process and criteria in Tacoma Municipal Code 1.55, which follows state law.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Chief Deputy City Attorney