



**TO:** Hyun Kim, City Manager  
**FROM:** Council Member Jamika Scott and Christina Caan, Policy Analyst  
**COPY:** Economic Development Committee; Anna Le, Management Fellow; Tanja Carter, Community and Economic Development Director  
**PRESENTER:** Council Member Jamika Scott  
**SUBJECT:** Enhancing Tacoma’s Film Industry  
**DATE:** April 14, 2026

**PRESENTATION TYPE**

Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY**

Council Member Jamika Scott is sharing an informational overview of her draft proposal for a Council contingency fund request to sponsor a Tacoma Film Task Force (FTF).

**BACKGROUND**

Council Member Jamika Scott has been engaged in conversations with local community members involved in various aspects of filmmaking and she hosted a community roundtable on the state of the film industry in Tacoma last year. Community members have shared that the film industry in our city has energy and momentum, along with impressive talent, but needs to be better organized with more robust leadership. One of the top requests from community members is to establish a film task force to help chart a pathway for helping the City of Tacoma expand and enhance local talent, content, and jobs.

**ISSUE**

Filmmaking can be a powerful economic development tool for cities. From commercials to feature films, filmmaking can create a range of jobs, activate local businesses, and help increase tourism. While Tacoma is home to a passionate filmmaking community, our city attracts only a small handful of film projects each year. Many of our community members who work in the film industry need to commute to Seattle or other locations to ensure a steady income.

- 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>1</sup> The small town of Forks, Washington, has seen a massive jump in tourism—from 10,000 people a 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>2</sup>

Tacoma has potential to grow as a regional hub for the film industry, creating jobs and bringing in revenue for local businesses. Our city offers unique locations for filming, including both sophisticated and gritty environments, and has key infrastructure that the film industry requires, such as large hotels and convenient parking. To expand and enhance the film industry in Tacoma, Council Member Scott is evaluating opportunities to establish a Tacoma Film Task Force. Such a body would make recommendations to City Council on how to help grow the local film industry and collaborate more effectively with other cities in the South Sound, including Seattle. By drawing on local expertise in the film industry, the task force could

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<sup>1</sup> [2025 Film Permit Data Seattle - Full Deck.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Why ‘Twilight’ has become immortal in this former Washington state logging town - OPB](#)



provide important insights on a range of issues, such as updating the Motion Picture Municipal Code, creating an inventory of industry assets in the city, and ensuring the film permitting process is easy, accessible, and transparent.

**ALTERNATIVES**

This is an informational briefing only. No alternatives are being presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This is an informational briefing only.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is an informational briefing only. No recommendation is being made.

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A