



City's Events and Recognitions Committee

Economic Development Committee
Annual Update
September 30, 2025

1

Background

City's Events and Recognitions Committee Members:

Keoni Ho, At-Large 1
Janet Bissel, At-Large 2
Thai Vo, At-Large 3
Tim Fairley, At-Large 4
Cydney Stephens, At-Large 5
Jessica Johnston, Chair, At-Large 6
Jill Sparks, District 1
Alex Domine, District 2
Jacob Tice, Vice Chair, District 3
Nathan Donnel, District 4
Kirsten Putman, Treasurer, District 5



2

Our Recent Work

City's Events and Recognitions Committee (CERC)

- Produce annual volunteer award ceremonies
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
 - City of Destiny Awards
- Review and administer special events grant funding applications and awards
- Determine eligibility for City Event Services
- Engage in community events



3

Accomplishments

Special Events Grant Funding

- **Application Assessment:**
 - Access, opportunity, and belonging (35%)
 - Merit/need (35%)
 - Community impact (20%)
 - Organizational capacity to produce the event (10%)
- **2025 – \$90,000 (\$2,500- \$5,000)**
- **Funded organizations include:**
 - Cultural and community groups
 - Tacoma City Theaters' Resident Arts Organizations
 - Neighborhood Councils
 - Business Districts

APPLICATIONS	50
DISTRICTS	5
FUNDING	\$90,000
AWARDEES	26
EVENTS	32
ATTENDEES	75,420



4

Accomplishments

2025 Special Events Funding Awardees:

Asia Pacific Cultural Center
Asia Pacific New Year Celebration

WayOut Kids
Juneteenth Celebration: A Road to Economic Freedom

Black Night Market
Second Annual Soul Food Festival

Washington State Historical Society
Spirit Arts Market & Northwest Native Festival

Central Neighborhood Council
Tacoma Porchfest

Classical Tuesdays in Old Town
Tacoma Tapestry 2025

Downtown: On the Go!
Parking Day 2025

Entertainment Resource Alliance
Military Marvels Art Market

Greentrike
Math Fest

Hilltop Artists in Residence
Arts Night Out

Hope Leadership Trust
Disability Day Street Festival

Lincoln International Business District
Lincoln District Lunar New Year Festival

Proctor Business District Association
Proctor Arts Fest

Rainbow Center
Tacoma Pride Festival

South End Neighborhood Council
SENCo Annual Block Party

Tacoma Art Museum
Dia de los Muertos Festival

Tacoma Arts Live
Northwest Playwrights Alliance Readings

Tacoma Concert Band
Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting

Tacoma HONK! Fest
Tacoma HONK! Fest 2025

Tacoma Light Trail
Tacoma Light Trail 2025

Tacoma Refugee Choir
Let There be Peace on Earth Concert

Tacoma Sister Cities
Japanese Children's Day

The Paloma Project
Indigenous Art Day

Caribbean Queens
SoulFull Festival

University of Washington Tacoma
Celebrando Comunidad

Write253
Tacoma Wayzgoose



5

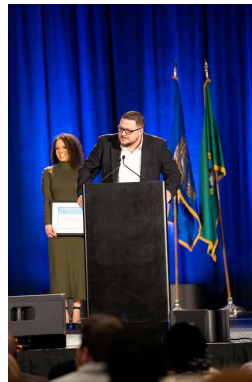
Accomplishments

2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

- **Lifetime Service Award:** Shawn Durnen
- **Emerging Leader Award:** Brian Gatewood, Sr.
- **Mayor Woodards Special Recognition Award:** Derek Kilmer

2025 City of Destiny Awards

- **Lifetime Service:** Jim and Jill Weatherford
- **Adult Leadership:** John Cummings
- **Youth Leadership:** Nateli Sanderson
- **Youth Service:** Nicollette Roe
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Craig Bergstrom
- **Disability Advocate: Professional:** Parker Ayers
- **Economic Development:** Jason Gauthier
- **Equity & Empowerment, Individual:** Alicia Klein
- **Equity & Empowerment, Group:** South End Neighborhood Council
- **Champion for Civic Engagement:** Mattice Hoyt
- **Inspire Tacoma:** Jason Kinlow



6

Accomplishments

Enhanced Special Events Support

Toolkit for accessible and welcoming events

- Public education tool to increase access and belonging at events

TVE SkillShops

Capacity-building webinars and resources

- Permitting
- Event production and resources
- Safety and security
- Grant writing and funding



7

Accomplishments

Enhanced Special Events Support

City Event Services Program

- Equitable distribution of City services
 - Align with the goals of the CERC's grant funding program and scoring mechanisms

Two designations

- Citywide
- Tacoma Sponsored



2025 City Event Services Designations

Citywide

- Daffodil Parade
- Jr. Daffodil Parade
- Juneteenth Celebration: A Road to Economic Freedom
- Summer Blast
- Tacoma Pride
- Downtown Holiday Celebration
- MOSAIC

City of Tacoma Sponsored

- Lincoln Lunar New Year
- Tacoma Wayzgoose
- SENCo Block Party
- Soulfest Festival
- Downtown Tacoma Block Party
- La Paloma Marketplace-Indigenous Art Day
- Savor Fest NW
- Park(ing) Day
- Tacoma Porchfest
- Proctor Arts Fest



8

What We Are Working On

2026 Projects

Special Events grant funding – 2026 applications now open

- Applications close October 21

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

- *Community in Service: A Path to Action*
- Date: January 19, 2026
- Greater Tacoma Convention Center
- Nominations due October 28, 2025

City of Destiny Awards

- Date: May 6, 2026
- Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall

Sponsorships

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- City of Destiny Awards

Excise Tax Funding



9



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10



Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District

Economic Development Committee
Annual Update
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1

Background



Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District (GTRCC PFD)

- Municipal corporation & taxing authority (RCW 35.57)
- GTRCC-PFD formed 1999 assist in financing construction & operation of GTCC
- Tacoma, Fife, Lakewood, University Place, Pierce County
- Financing
 - 0.033% Sales Tax Rebate
 - 7% Tacoma Lodging Tax
 - Parking System Revenues
 - GTCC Operating Income
- All debt issued by City of Tacoma.
- GTCC operated by City of Tacoma through Interlocal Agreement



2

Background

2025 GTRCC PFD Board Members

Dean Burke, Chair – Visit Tacoma-Pierce County

Andrea Reay, Secretary/Treasurer - Washington Hospital Association

Colleen Barta – Tacoma Community Member

Rosie Ayala - Pierce County Council

Linda Smith – City of Lakewood
Paul Bocchi (Alternate)

S. Joey Murphy – City of Fife
Lew Wolfram (Alternate)

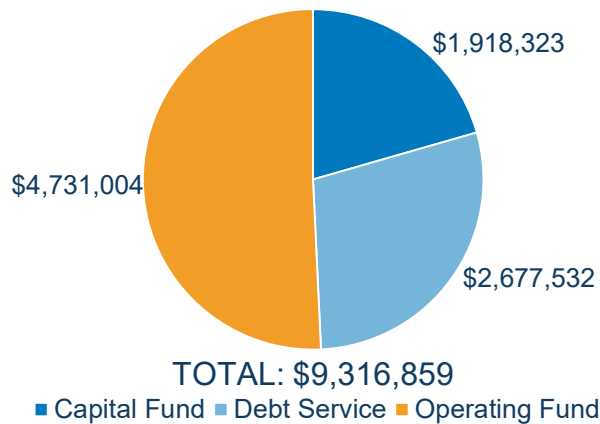
Kevin Briske – City of University Place



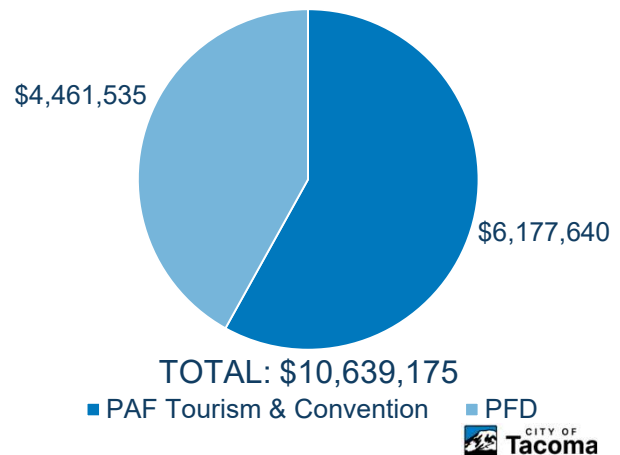
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Our Recent Work

OPERATING CASH BALANCE AS OF 06/30/25

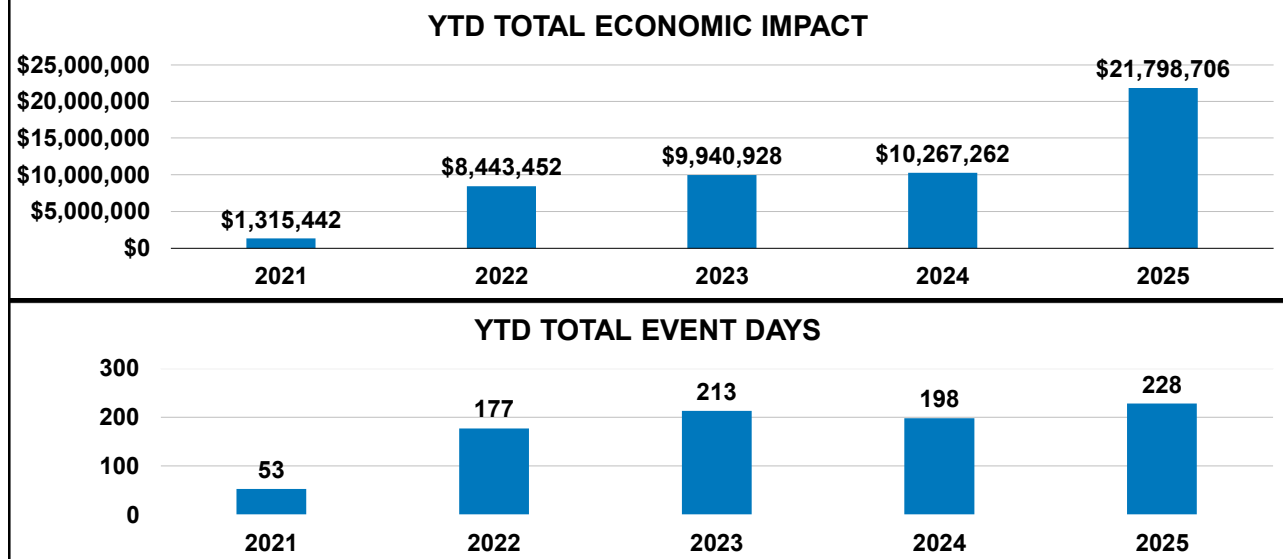


FUNDING CASH BALANCE AS OF 06/30/25



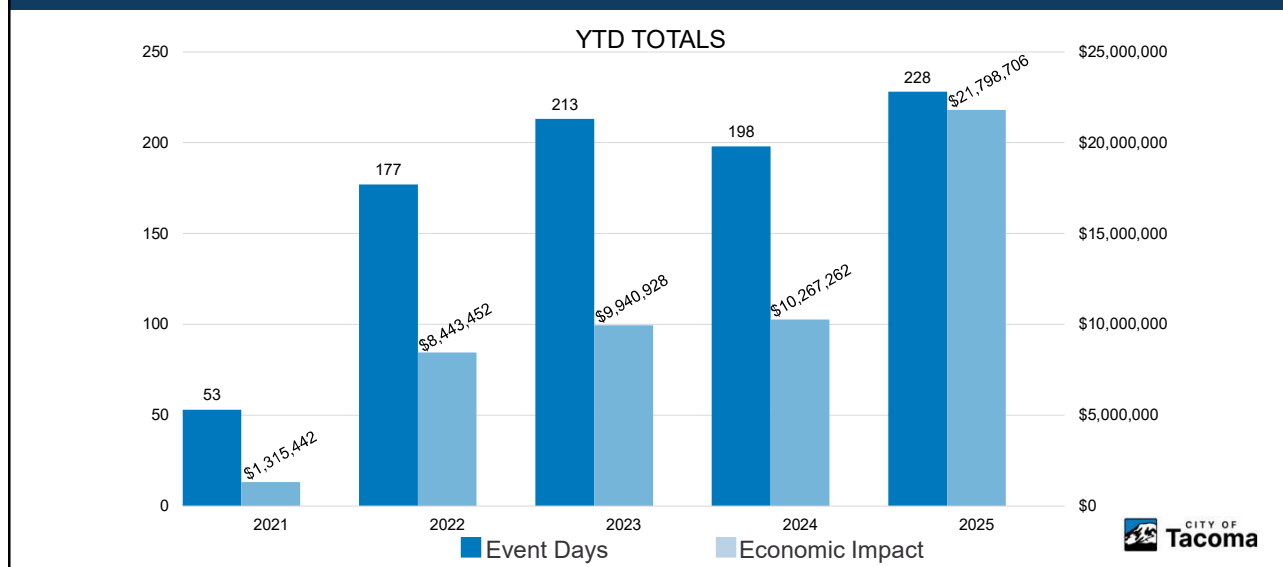
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Our Recent Work



5

Our Recent Work



6

Up Next

- Economic Impact
- Infrastructure Investment
- State PFD Legislation



7



Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District

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8

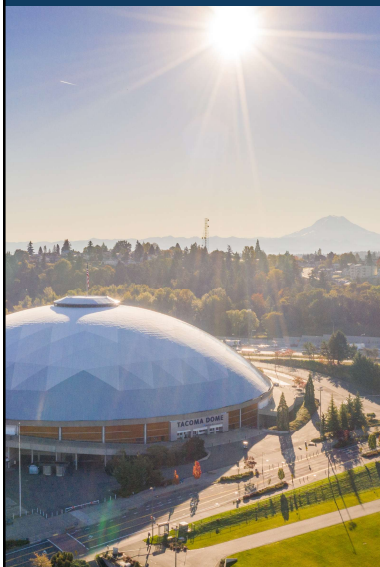


Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee

Informational Briefing
September 30, 2025
Economic Development Committee

1

Our Mandate: Ensuring Equity in Contracting



- Established April 22, 2022 through Resolution 40944
- Advisory body to City Council and Program staff on overall program effectiveness
- **Primary responsibility:** monitor compliance to Equity in Contracting Program guidelines and accountability standards



2

Why Equity in Contracting Matters to Tacoma



Ensures City dollars support inclusive economic growth



Builds trust and transparency in public contracting



Advances Council-adopted equity goals



Helps remove barriers for small, minority, and women-owned businesses



3

Who We Are: A Diverse, Community-Rooted Committee

Catina Patton

Certified Business No.1

Angela Michaelis

Certified Business No. 2

Rahsaan Freeman

Certified Business No. 3

Scott Lundt (Chair)

Certified Business No. 4

Justin Baker

Union Signatory Firm

Clint Myers

Large Prime

Sushil Nihal

TPU Service Area No. 1

Michael Jordan (Vice Chair)

TPU Service Area No. 2

Khadi Berete

TPU Service Area No. 3

Thomas Ebenhoh

Council District 2

Katherine (Kate) Ginn

Council District 3

Christopher Brown

Council District 5

Vacant Positions

Council District 1

Council District 4

Open Shop Firm



4

Turning Insight into Action: Our Subcommittees at Work

Subcommittees

• Internal Processes

- Purpose: Advise on policies and procedures relating to City procurement activities.
- Members
 - Michael Jordan
 - Angela Michaelis
 - Kate Ginn
 - Catina Patton

• Workforce

- Purpose: Advise on incorporating inclusion and diversity into existing or future hiring, recruitment, education, and advancement strategies related to the contracting community.
- Members
 - Michael Jordan
 - Scott Lundt
 - Catina Patton
 - Clint Myers



5

Building Capacity Through Outreach

Workforce Subcommittee Workshops & Training Outcomes



8 workshops/events hosted



120+ attendees



9 partnerships with local technical assistance providers



6

From Ideas to Impact: What We've Achieved

Progress & Achievements

- Recruitment
- Subcommittee Engagement
 - Annual Work Plan
 - Internal Processes: Prompt Payment
- Workforce: Access to Capital, Training, and Workshops

Ongoing Priorities

- Access to key City staff
- Performance dashboard



7

Looking Ahead: Deepening Our Impact

Focus Areas

- Annual Report
- Equity in Contracting Performance Dashboard
- Program and Policy Development
 - Disparity Study Recommendations
 - Research Business Certification Types
 - Continued improvements to contracting processes, compliance, outreach, and communication



8



Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee

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Tacoma Arts Commission

Informational Briefing
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1

Creating a Place Where Arts & Culture Can Happen



Arts Commission Primary Duty:

Identify and actively encourage the development and sustainability of the arts in the City by serving as the City's primary resource in matters of art, culture, public art, and cultural tourism.

Our Purpose Includes:

- Promoting the arts to build community and the economy
- Creating a unique identity through public art
- Encouraging artistic excellence and diversity



2

How Arts & Culture Support Livability



Build and Connect Community



Grow and Sustain the Economy



Develop and Maintain Tacoma's Unique Culture



Support Equitable Access and Public Engagement



3

Ensuring Authentic Community Connections to Policy & Priorities



Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Chair/Professional Position 3

Vice Chair Jes Takla
Vice Chair/At Large 1

Kenya Shakoore
At Large 2

Sarah Jane Hoppe
At Large 3

Jasmine Brown
At Large 4

Jeanette Sanchez
At Large 5

Hannah-Clarke Gilmore
At Large 6

Connie Behe
At Large 7

Erica Chang
At Large 8

Katie Dean
At Large 9

Michael Kula
Professional Position 1

Derek Nunn
Professional Position 2

Vernon Ng
Professional Position 4

Vacant
Public Education Community

Ean Olsen
Working Professional Artist



4

Engaging Community in Placemaking & Placekeeping



Public Art Installations create unique identity throughout the city.

Murals and Wraps build a sense of place and deter graffiti.

Art Planning and Artists-in-Residence bring artists to the table to help deliver the City's work in a smarter way.

Active Partnerships support cohesive implementation, leverage resources, and create stronger relationships with key partners.



5

Cultivating an Environment Where Arts & Culture Thrive



Funding supports community-driven projects:

- \$100K awarded to 25 artists (2025–26)
- \$148K awarded to 21 groups (2025)

Community Programming connects artists with the public:

- 24th Annual Tacoma Arts Month
- Tacoma Studio Tour
- Arts at the Armory
- Tacoma Poet Laureate



6

Arts & Culture in Every Council District

DISTRICT OVERVIEW



District 1

- 25 community projects, 2 TAIP artists
- Zoo public artwork, mural
- 36 Studio Tour artists, 15 at Armory

District 2

- 24 community projects, 11 TAIP artists
- 6 public artworks
- 6 Studio Tour artists, 9 at Armory
- Spaceworks murals, installations, new coworking space, new alumni space

District 3

- 25 community projects, 4 TAIP artists
- Tacoma Mall Art Plan, 6 murals, plaques
- 26 Studio Tour artists, 18 at Armory
- Spaceworks murals, new alumni space

District 5

- 14 community projects, 1 TAIP artist
- Larchmont public artwork
- Kaleidoscope event, 6 Studio Tour artists

District 4

- 15 community projects, 6 TAIP artists
- 7 public artworks
- 17 Studio Tour artists, 12 at Armory
- Spaceworks public art training & installations

Citywide:

- Spaceworks entrepreneur support
- 2 Artists-in-Residence



7

Up Next – Arts Commission Priorities



2025 Commission Priorities

- Tacoma Creates Reauthorization
- Maintain Arts Funding Levels
- Explore Access to Space for Artists and the Cultural Sector
- Explore TPU Participation in 1% for Art



8



Tacoma Arts Commission

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