



2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



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We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.



ARTS • CULTURE • HERITAGE • SCIENCE



WHAT IS TACOMA CREATES?

[Tacoma Creates](#) is a community-supported initiative to increase access to arts, culture, heritage, and science experiences throughout Tacoma by reducing barriers to access and expanding offerings, particularly for underserved youth. Tacoma Creates is the first Cultural Access program of its kind in Washington State and is supported by a local sales tax of 1/10th of 1%.



TACOMA CREATES PROGRAM YEAR 2023-24

We are pleased to share this report on the impact of the fourth year of Tacoma Creates funding!

We've seen four years of enhanced cultural vibrancy in our city, and greater opportunities for community engagement through arts, culture, heritage, and science presentations and activities. In addition to the visible impacts we see at cultural festivals, in museums, and at performing arts events, we also see the ripple effects of a well-supported cultural sector in other ways.

We see the increase in youth education programs, and we know that when young people are more engaged in learning opportunities both in and out of school, it's good for the whole community. We see that cultural organizations drive significant spending in our community by supporting jobs, bringing in tourism dollars, and adding to our local economy. In short, we see that our community's investment in the cultural sector is a smart investment.

In each of the first four years of Tacoma Creates funding, we've seen an increase in collaborations between cultural organizations, and increase in programming through our partnerships with Tacoma Public Library (TPL) and Tacoma Public Schools (TPS). We are especially pleased to share that during the 2023-24 school year, 100% of Tacoma Public Schools benefited from programming supported by Tacoma Creates. We're also excited about the district-wide field trips that TPS started last year, which was made possible in part by Tacoma Creates funding.

This funding strengthens existing cultural programs and expands programming throughout the city, which makes a positive difference for our community members. We hope you enjoy learning more on the following pages.

Brian Robinson
Chair, Tacoma Creates Advisory Board

Katie Mattran
Vice Chair, Tacoma Creates Advisory Board

Learn more about Tacoma Creates at tacomacreates.org.



Greentrike



Puget Sound Revels



Sixth Avenue Business District



2023-24 YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

\$5.8M

DISTRIBUTED TO ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS IN TACOMA

65

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED

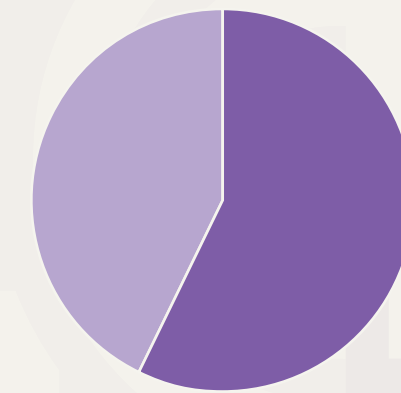
77%

OF PROGRAMS WERE COMPLETELY FREE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

OVER 310,000 attendees at free, in-person cultural events

1,207,000

PARTICIPANTS ACROSS ALL TACOMA CREATES-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

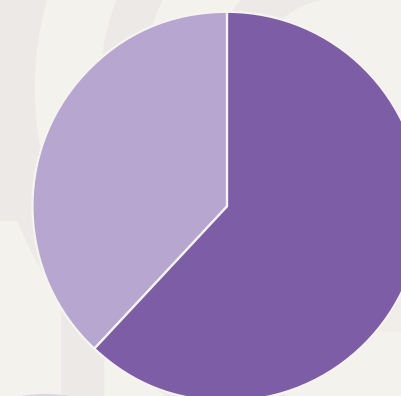


693,000 Participants at hybrid and online events

514,000 Participants at in-person events

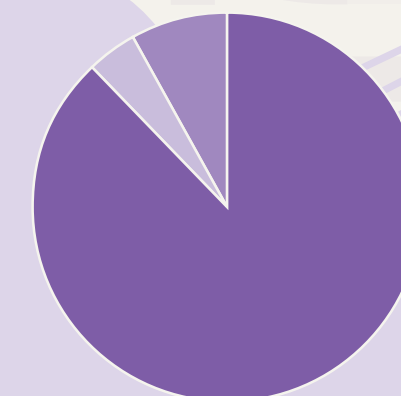
1,277

TOTAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS



792 General Public

485 Youth Education



88% In-Person

4% Online

8% Hybrid

4-YEAR HISTORY

ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED

2023-24	65
2022-23	58
2021-22	51
2020-21	57

FUNDING AMOUNT

2023-24	\$5.8M
2022-23	\$4.5M
2021-22	\$4.2M
2020-21	\$4.7M

TOTAL PROGRAMS

2023-24	1,277
2022-23	1,185
2021-22	1,054
2020-21	412

TOTAL YOUTH ED PROGRAMS

2023-24	485
2022-23	412
2021-22	397
2020-21	144



2023-24 YEAR AT-A-GLANCE: YOUTH EDUCATION & PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

42 Organizations provided youth education programs

485 Youth education programs offered

229,682 Participants at youth education programs

80% of programs were free for all youth participants



Foss Waterway Seaport

PARTNERSHIP: TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS (TPS)

- **30** Organizations provided education programs in partnership with TPS
- **100%** of TPS schools had a connection with at least one Tacoma Creates organization
- **\$1.1M** of Tacoma Creates funds used to support TPS student success
- **245** cultural field trips supported with free bus transportation

4-YEAR HISTORY: TPS FIELD TRIPS

2023-24	245
2022-23	175
2021-22	22
2020-21	0



Fablab

PARTNERSHIP: TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY (TPL)

- **31** Organizations presented programming in partnership with TPL
- **114** Programs presented
- **2,270** people attended free TPL/Tacoma Creates programs

4-YEAR HISTORY: TPL WORKSHOPS

2023-24	114
2022-23	64
2021-22	49
2020-21	45



FUNDING PROGRAMS

Tacoma Creates funds eligible non-profit arts, culture, heritage, and science organizations in Tacoma to support their public programming work, with a focus on equity, access, and public benefit. There are two funding categories – Impact Funding and Comprehensive Organizational Support – both of which support a wide variety of public presentations, workshops, exhibitions, events, festivals, youth education programs, and lifelong learning programs for all ages.

PRIMARY FUNDING GOALS

- Support public programs in arts, culture, heritage, and/or science that engage community members in Tacoma.
- Increase access to these programs, and reduce barriers to participation, especially for historically underserved populations, and within neighborhoods across Tacoma.
- Support programming by and for culturally or ethnically specific communities, and/or other underrepresented groups.
- Expand access to youth education programs in arts, culture, heritage, and science.
- Support the sustainability of cultural sector organizations in Tacoma.



Tacoma Little Theatre



Hilltop Artists



Tacoma Tree Foundation



2023-24 COHORT OF FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

Alchemy Skateboarding

Arts First

Asia Pacific Cultural Center

Barefoot Collective

Buffalo Soldiers Museum

Capoeira Vida

Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation

Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma

Communities for a Healthy Bay

Cousin Collective

Das Biest Performance Project

Destiny City Music Collective

Esperanza Móbil Family Resource Center

Fablab Nonprofit

Foss Waterway Seaport

Golden Bamboo

Greentrike

Hilltop Artists

Hilltop Business Association

Job Carr Cabin Museum

Latinx Unidos of the South Sound

LeMay – America’s Car Museum

Mi Centro

Museum of Glass

Music and Heart in Wright Park

Northwest Sinfonietta

Oasis Youth Center

Orchestral Recital Series of Tacoma

Pacific Northwest Dance Foundation

Permaculture Lifestyle Institute

Playground KiKi

Puget Sound Revels

Queer Northwest

Rainbow Center

Residual

Sixth Avenue Business District

Spaceworks Tacoma

Swan Creek Art Academy

Symphony Tacoma

Tacoma Art Museum

Tacoma Arts Live

Tacoma Boat Builders

Tacoma City Association of Colored Women’s Clubs

Tacoma Concert Band

Tacoma Historical Society

Tacoma Light Trail

Tacoma Little Theatre

Tacoma Music Academy

Tacoma Musical Playhouse

Tacoma Opera

Tacoma Photo Center

Tacoma Refugee Choir

Tacoma Sister Cities

Tacoma Tree Foundation

Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center

Tacoma Youth Symphony Association

Ted Brown Music Outreach

The Grand Cinema

The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra

The Night Media Foundation

Toolbox Laboratories

Truth Movement Innertainment

WayOut Kids

World Affairs Council of Tacoma

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Funding amounts are available on the [Funding History](#) page of our website.

Learn more about the Tacoma Creates funding process on the [Funding Opportunities](#) page of our website.

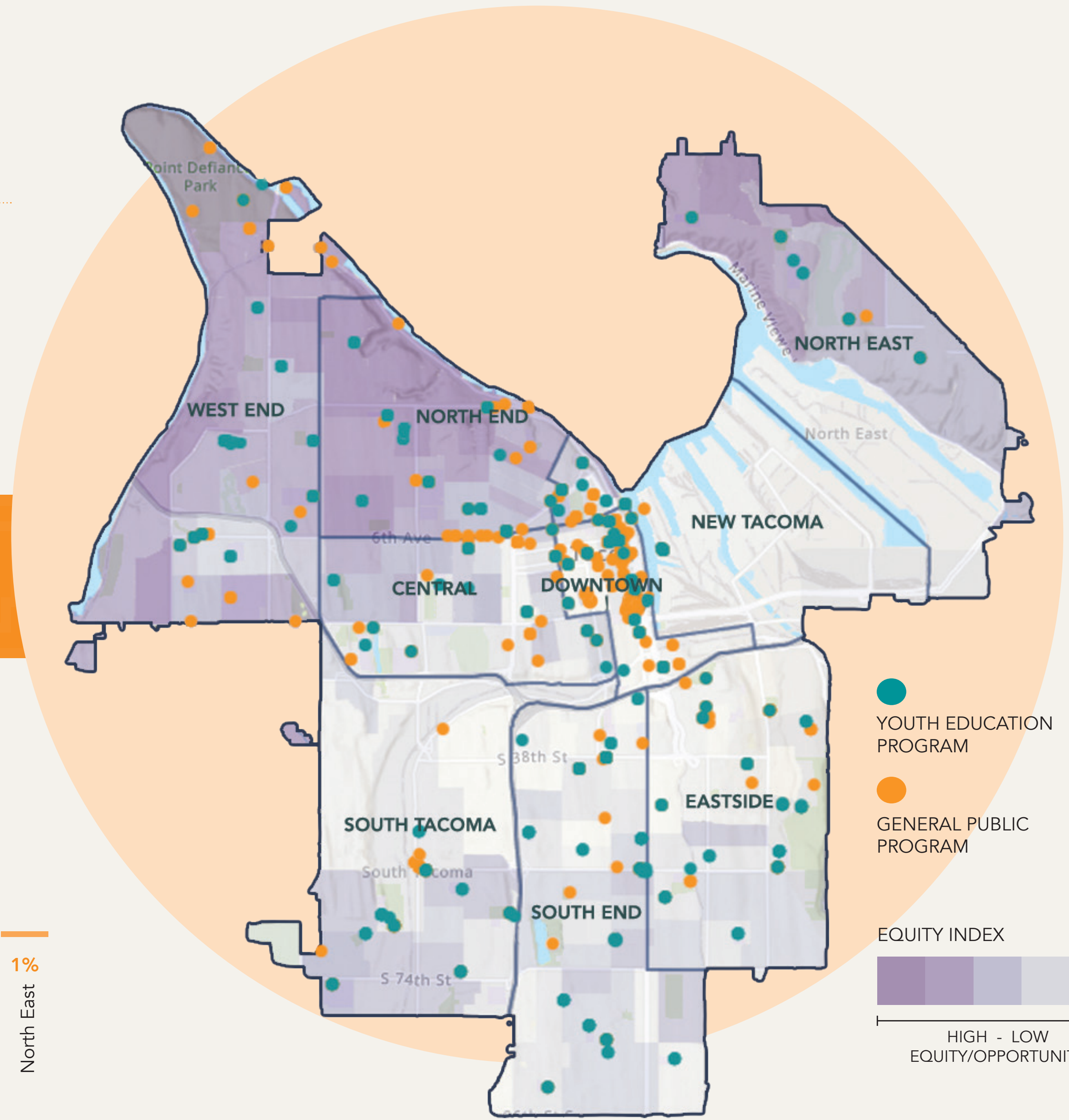


PROGRAM LOCATIONS

This map shows the locations of programs and events supported by Tacoma Creates.

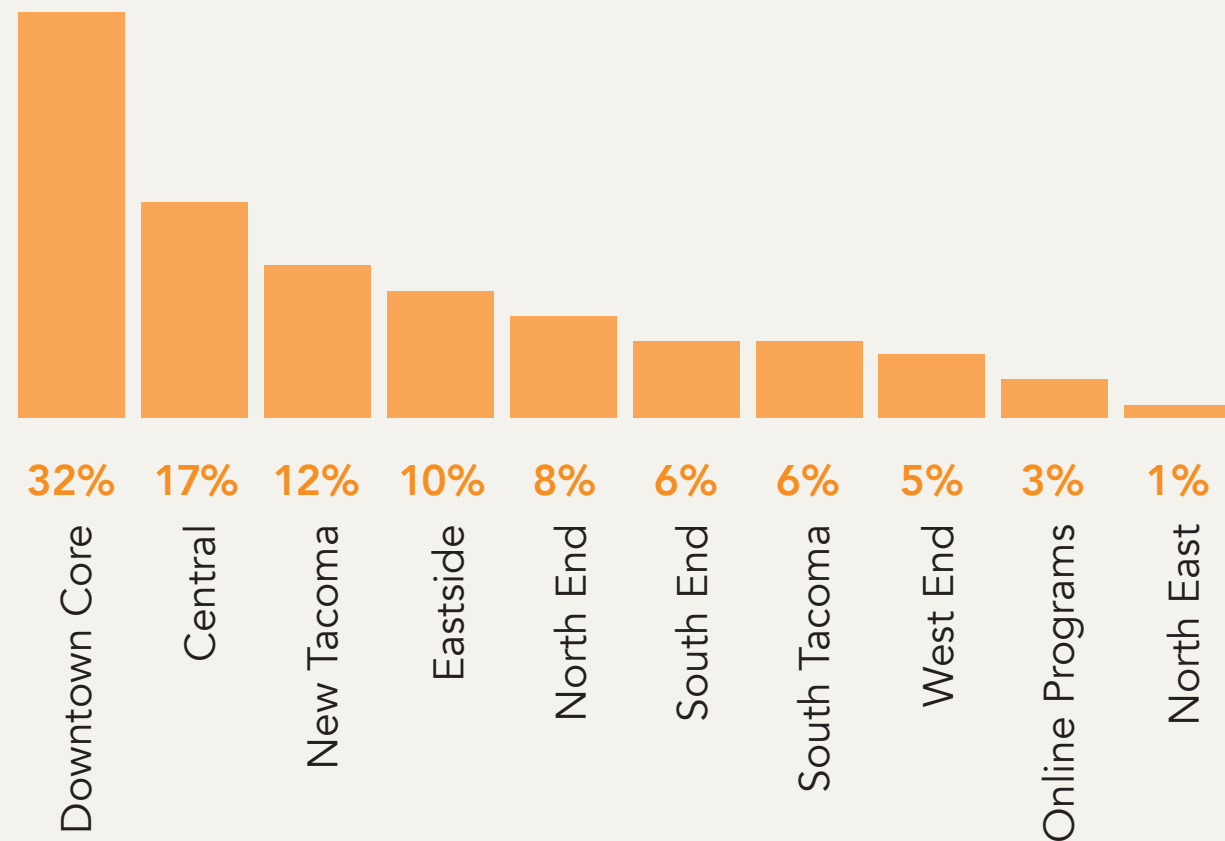
The purple shading is from the City of Tacoma's [Equity Index](#), an interactive tool that visually highlights disparities in Tacoma. This tool supports data-informed decision making to improve access to opportunity for all community members.

Many dots on the map represent multiple events. View an interactive version of the [Program Locations map](#), including names of events and producing organizations.



ORGANIZATION EXPENSES BY PROGRAM LOCATION

This chart shows how organizations allocated their Tacoma Creates funds by the neighborhood location of their programming.



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

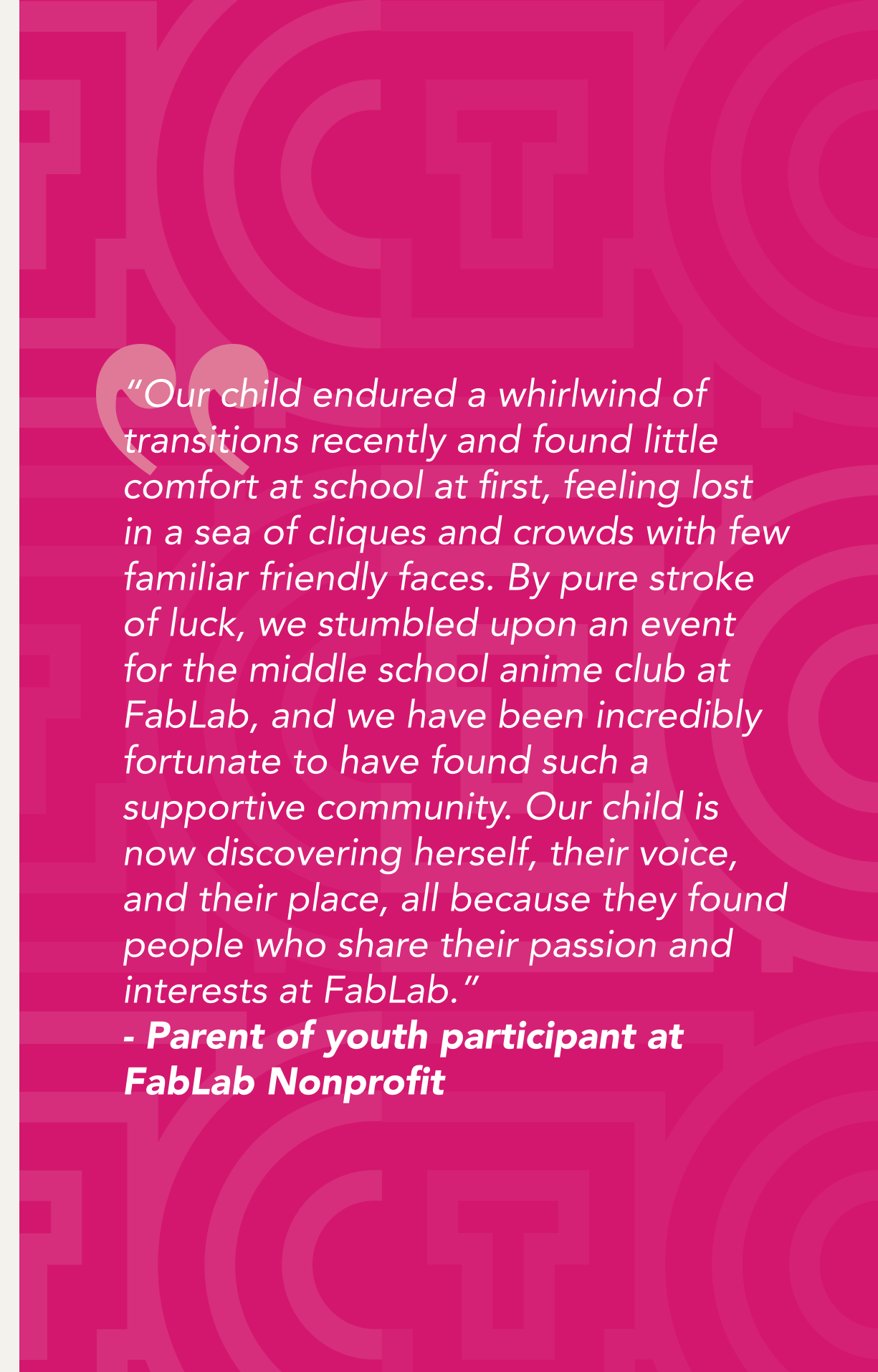
CLASSES, CAMPS, OR WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH UNDER AGE 18

Of the more than 1,200 programs offered by Tacoma Creates organizations during the 2023-24 program year, nearly 500 of them were Youth Education Programs. Tacoma Creates funding helped expand and grow existing programs for learning and creativity in visual and performing arts, in natural and computer sciences, and in explorations of culture and heritage.

- **42** Organizations provided youth education programs
- **485** Youth education programs offered
- **229,682** Participants at youth education programs
- **80%** of programs were free for all youth participants

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EDUCATORS

As part of our commitment to youth education programming, Tacoma Creates supported scholarships to professional learning opportunities for educators who work with Tacoma Creates-funded organizations. Four educators received 50% scholarships to participate in the Washington State Teaching Artist Training Lab, and 20 educators received 80% scholarships to participate in the School's Out Washington Bridge Conference. These professional learning opportunities are expanding organizations' capacity to create strong, youth-centered and equity-informed programs for young people in Tacoma.



"Our child endured a whirlwind of transitions recently and found little comfort at school at first, feeling lost in a sea of cliques and crowds with few familiar friendly faces. By pure stroke of luck, we stumbled upon an event for the middle school anime club at FabLab, and we have been incredibly fortunate to have found such a supportive community. Our child is now discovering herself, their voice, and their place, all because they found people who share their passion and interests at FabLab."

- Parent of youth participant at FabLab Nonprofit



"With the support of Tacoma Creates, we were able to bring in Black and BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, and People of Color] professional dancers to teach Master Classes. These experiences exposed our students to role models who look like them and who have achieved success in the arts, fostering a sense of possibility and aspiration. The direct interaction with these accomplished artists provided students with high-level instruction, insight into professional careers, and inspiration to pursue their own artistic goals."

- Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center



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PARTNERSHIP WITH TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A provision in the Tacoma Creates [legislation](#) — the Public School Cultural Access Program — supports a commitment to working in collaboration with Tacoma Public Schools.

Tacoma Creates-supported work with Tacoma Public School (TPS) includes programming connected to classroom curriculum during the regular school day, after school programming on site at TPS campuses, professional development opportunities for educators, and more.

100%
of TPS schools had a connection with at least one Tacoma Creates organization

\$1.1M
of Tacoma Creates funds used to support TPS student success

30
Organizations provided education programs in partnership with TPS

"We have made great strides at deepening our impact on music education in Tacoma in recent years. One great success is beginning to build relationships in Tacoma Public Schools by offering coaching sessions to instrumental music students, with one teacher commenting, '...this mentorship opportunity was invaluable to the young percussionists in the concert band.'" - Tacoma Music Collaborative (formerly known as Orchestral Recital Series)

"Our twice-monthly workshops in partnership with Tacoma Online/ Tacoma Public Schools has been fantastic. The youth and their families have few opportunities to interact in person with classmates and educators. We provide consistent and quality meetups; introducing new materials and techniques that are STEAM/ STEM based. Over the school year we've observed relationships grow, collaborations take place, and creative projects come alive." - Toolbox Laboratories





Tacoma Boat Builders

BEYOND THE BELL

In partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, Metro Parks Tacoma, and Greentrike, Tacoma Creates helped support after school classes through Beyond the Bell (elementary schools) and Club B (middle schools).

- **13** Tacoma Creates organizations provided classes
- **162** classes taught over 4 sessions
- **35** TPS elementary and middle schools
- **1,240** TPS students participated

FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR TPS FIELD TRIPS

To increase access to cultural programs, Tacoma Creates partners with TPS to cover the cost of bus transportation for school-day field trips to Tacoma Creates-supported programming. This support is open to all TPS schools, with priority given to Title 1 schools. Thousands of students from pre-school through high school attended museums, films, and live professional performances.

- Bus costs covered for **245** cultural learning experiences
- Classrooms from **53** TPS schools participated



Symphony Tacoma



DISTRICT-WIDE FIELD TRIPS SUPPORTED BY TACOMA CREATES

The 2023-24 school year was the first year of an exciting new program: TPS district-wide field trips for all students in grades K-8. Four of those trips are to organizations supported by Tacoma Creates, and the buses for these field trips are fully covered by Tacoma Creates funds.

- **All 3rd graders** learn about vehicle design at **LeMay - America's Car Museum**.
- **All 5th graders** learn instruments and attend a **Symphony Tacoma** performance.
- **All 6th graders** explore the science of glass and light at the **Museum of Glass**.
- **All 7th graders** board a research vessel to learn marine science with **Foss Waterway Seaport**.

*"We welcomed more than 2,500 TPS third graders, teachers, and chaperones into the Museum for a hands-on field trip experience, with both pre- and post-field trip curriculum provided. This partnership has been years in the making, and without support from Tacoma Creates, ACM would not have been able to offer this experience. This partnership has been particularly beneficial to our Education Department because it allows for more in-depth conversations with educators, so we are able to modify our curriculum to suit their needs. One teacher summed up their experience: "A little history, a little safety, a little physics, and a lot of fun." - **LeMay - America's Car Museum***

*"In the past, some schools were able to take field trips, and some were not, and it was typically based on PTA funding. Having funding from Tacoma Creates brings so much equity." - **Angie Neville, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, TPS***

*"Tacoma Creates supported the Science of Art program for every 6th-grade student at TPS. MOG's education team works with TPS Curriculum Administrators to keep the lessons student-centered while meeting the latest Next Generation Science Standards. We have a two-part experience: first, a trained MOG Arts Educator visits the classroom to lead learning and guide hands-on experiments that prepare students for what they will see at MOG. The second part is a field trip to MOG, where classroom learning is reinforced in the galleries and the Hot Shop. And in the Education Studio, students make art that demonstrates heat transmission. We served over 2,000 students and provided over 88 days of programming to 6th grade students this year." - **Museum of Glass***

PARTNERSHIP WITH TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tacoma Creates partners with Tacoma Public Library as part of our commitment to support cultural programming in different parts of the city.

Programming included story times for young children and families, interactive workshops for teens, and presentations about arts, history, and culture for all ages.

Learn about how this partnership is creating more access to programs by reading [this Tacoma News Tribune article](#), and watching the video.



Capoiera Vida

31
Organizations presented programming in partnership with TPL

114
Programs presented

2,270
People attended free TPL/Tacoma Creates programs

“Our relationship with Tacoma Public Library has flourished with Tacoma Creates funding. Our programming with them went from offering turnkey content to now going into our 3rd year of co-developed content with programs like Little Lit Fest, Story Fest, and Artist in the Archives. Each program opens new opportunities for the growth of our diverse neighbors. For example, Eastside Story Fest encouraged residents to share oral histories, scan family documents, and share recipes, media, and stories from the Eastside neighborhood. Our role was to support artistic expressions tied to the neighborhood.”
- Tacoma Arts Live

“It has become the highlight of their week. Every day he asks if we are going to the library!”
- Caregiver of a Greentrike / Play to Learn participant at Tacoma Public Library, Fern Hill Branch



EQUITY AND ACCESS

EQUITY AND ACCESS ARE CENTRAL TO TACOMA CREATES FUNDING PRIORITIES.

In alignment with Tacoma Creates' originating State legislation, and with the City of Tacoma's commitment to creating an equitable and anti-racist city, Tacoma Creates is dedicated to supporting vibrant and inclusive cultural programming throughout the city. Equity and access for Tacoma Creates means minimizing historical, systematic, and institutional disparities and maximizing opportunities for all people, increasing access, building community participation and engagement, and reducing barriers to participation.

Read more about the City of Tacoma's commitment to equity: [Resolution 40622](#); [Tacoma 2025](#); [Equity Index](#); and the [Office of Equity and Human Rights](#).

"Our work in equity and access is currently focused in three areas: equitable pay for dance professionals (teachers, choreographers), ensuring diverse voices in leadership positions of teaching and choreographing, and reducing childcare barriers for adult participants. Toward these goals, we were able to provide robust teaching and choreography stipends, plus travel stipends, to all of our contractors, and we were intentional in selecting teachers who are majority BIPOC (75%). We took care to ensure that at least 25% of our teachers were male, with the remaining gender identity demographics of our teachers being 25% female and 50% non-binary. To reduce childcare as a barrier to participation, we welcomed parents to bring their children to class and open studio/rehearsal sessions. This created a powerfully inclusive environment that benefited all."

- Barefoot Collective



Barefoot Collective

EQUITY-FOCUSED CAPACITY BUILDING WORK

Tacoma Creates invests in equity-focused capacity building work to support individuals' knowledge and understanding, and to support organizations' ability and drive to take action steps. We partnered with Tacoma firm Coleman and Associates to support skill-building and peer learning in [Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(JEDI\)](#) through a series of topic-specific JEDI workshops, a film series, and organization-specific consulting time.

- **37 individuals from 22 organizations** participated in a 4-session JEDI learning groups
- **32 individuals from 22 organizations** participated in JEDI workshops, on topics including organizational culture and governance
- **18 individuals from 14 organizations** attended the JEDI film series, exploring the legacy of colonialism in non-profit work
- **23 hours of organizational coaching** was provided on topics including goal development, values, and sustaining JEDI efforts

JEDI WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS SHARED

"I would like to share my appreciation for the JEDI trainings and opportunities to be in that space with partners and organizations we are just getting to know. The sessions really help us find time to reflect and ask meaningful questions as well as give us some time to create goals and reconsider our practices." - Tacoma Tree Foundation

"Tacoma Creates support for JEDI training makes us a stronger, more resilient organization that better serves the community, and we count that as sustainability for the organization." - Communities for a Healthy Bay

"This is my first nonprofit job. Attending the workshop made a big impression on me. I hadn't thought about the ideas about board service and diversity that were shared." - Staff Member, Greentrike

"I appreciate the time to reflect together and the excellent facilitation by Coleman and Associates on how to operationalize our commitments to JEDI." - Board Member, Greentrike

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

Tacoma Creates supports cultural organizations' efforts to expand equity and access in internal and public-facing work. This work is approached in various ways by different organizations, for example:

- **83%** indicate specific, measurable continuing or new work in supporting access for public programs
- **59%** indicate intentional work to support culturally or ethnically specific communities, and/or other underrepresented groups
- **51%** indicate specific, measurable continuing or new work in policies, practices, and/or infrastructure
- **32%** indicate engaging with equity-related trainings, consultants, and/or internal committees
- **24%** indicate equity-related changes in composition of or support of staff, board, volunteers



Asia Pacific Cultural Center

SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH

Funding from Tacoma Creates supports both current programs and long-term sustainability, giving organizations the opportunity to build capacity for the future. From professional learning opportunities for staff and board members, to acquiring or upgrading equipment, and supporting new partnerships – increased organizational stability leads to stronger community programming.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

Tacoma Creates supports the sustainability of the cultural sector by supporting organizations' financial health, their ability to collaborate, and their programming and staffing capacity.

- 97% reported producing new, adjusted, or expanded programs
- 71% reported productive collaborations within the cultural sector
- 57% reported expanded staffing, contractors, volunteers
- 52% reported doing program evaluation work
- 48% reported expanded infrastructure
- 29% reported productive collaborations outside the cultural sector



Tacoma Youth Symphony Association

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE SAYING ABOUT HOW TACOMA CREATES FUNDS SUPPORT THEIR SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH.

“One of the most important dynamics this year for the Tacoma Light Trail was the new team of organizers hired to produce the Trail. Tacoma Creates support was absolutely crucial to this transition providing funding for a new Director, Art Director and Communications Manager. Tacoma Light Trail went from a 1-person led organization to a 3-person led organization. This transition was huge and without the proper funding resources this model is unsustainable.”
- Tacoma Light Trail



Buffalo Soldiers Museum

“Without this funding our festival would not be able to grow to the level that it has. This was bigger than last year, our biggest festival yet. We were able to provide a family friendly, engaging, learning and fun environment for everyone. This year we added more vendors, and we continue to add more hands-on activities for children. The festival was inclusive of all ages and this year we doubled the attendees from last year. What we enjoy the most is how this event continues to bring all communities together.”
- Latinx Unidos of the South Sound



Alchemy Skateboarding

“Tacoma Creates funding facilitated investments in our organization’s infrastructure. We were able to acquire new equipment and materials, enhancing the quality of our productions and the efficiency of our operations. This included updated sets and equipment, which improved the overall audience experience and allowed us to explore more ambitious and technically demanding works.”
- Tacoma Opera

“Tacoma Creates funding helped us reach communities outside what we normally would have been able to reach, and contributed to our ability to continue the festival. Providing artists with payment for their contributions, together with help for the permits, equipment, and contractor costs, was helpful.”
- Music and Heart in Wright Park

“We were able to increase the number of classes and workshops offered, reaching more students and broadening our impact in the community. The funding helped stabilize our financial footing, allowing us to focus on long-term planning rather than the aggravating short-term survival. We invested in updated equipment, semi-permanent ballet barres, office enclosures and furniture, providing our staff with a professional workspace. We also provided professional development opportunities for our staff, enabling them to expand our outreach efforts, connecting with new communities and increase participation across diverse groups. Tacoma Creates funding has been helpful in not only maintaining but also enhancing T.U.P.A.C.’s presence and impact in Hilltop.”
- Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center



Esperanza Mobil Family Resource Center

COLLABORATION

Collaboration is an important aspect of sustainability and growth: co-producing events gives organizations the opportunity to learn from one another, share resources, expand networks, and ultimately create richer experiences for the community. During the 2023-24 program year, dozens of events featured the combined expertise and networks of two or more groups funded by Tacoma Creates, and other collaborations provided arts, culture, heritage, and science programming in partnership with health or social service organizations.

“Tacoma Creates was instrumental in supporting the many collaborations and partnerships with arts and culture organizations we undertook this season including: work with Tacoma Tree Foundation and Communities for a Healthy Bay around our environmentally-focused concert; producing our October concert at the Foss Waterway Seaport; Concert in the Cone at Museum of Glass with Hilltop Artists; free community concert event and tango dancing with T.U.P.A.C.; Spaceworks Tacoma artwork displayed and projected in support of our March concert; ongoing collaboration with Greentrike, Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, TPL, TPS, and more. These collaborations increase the impact and reach of our programming.” - Northwest Sinfonietta

“The common thread among many of our collaborations is that these organizations are focused on the arts, yet they are excited about our environmental justice and science-based community work (as we are about their focus on the arts and humanities). When we come together, everything seems connected, and the artificial barriers so often brought up between science and the arts disappear. Thanks to Tacoma Creates funds, we can share the arboreal and forestry expertise of our organization with arts organizations that share our environmental and social justice values. Tacoma Creates helps us connect the dots between communities, neighborhoods, our values, goals, and our passions.” - Tacoma Tree Foundation

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AND COMMUNITY FESTIVALS

Community members in East and South Tacoma voted for a series of cultural festivals through a Tacoma Creates participatory budgeting project, and the final two of these occurred during the 2023-24 program year.



Asia Pacific Cultural Center



Calavera Collective

Congratulations to Asia Pacific Cultural Center on the South Tacoma Heritage Festival, and to Calavera Collective on the Día De Los Muertos event! Both events offered community members an opportunity to gather, celebrate, and deepen cultural connections.

ARTS AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY STUDY

In October 2023, results were released from a comprehensive study of Tacoma’s nonprofit arts and culture industry – part of a national study led by Americans for the Arts. The study documented economic and social benefits of this industry, and the local results are impressive.

IN 2022, TACOMA’S NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE INDUSTRY:

SUPPORTED 2,065 JOBS
3.5 times more than the median for cities of similar size

GENERATED \$5.2M IN LOCAL TAX REVENUE
Nearly 7 times more than the median for cities of similar size

GENERATED \$163M IN TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
5 times more than the median for cities of similar size

- 53% comes from spending by organizations (on personnel, supplies, facilities, etc.)
- 47% comes from spending by attendees (on food/drink, retail purchases, lodging, transportation, etc.)

The report demonstrated that when we fund arts and culture, we are investing in an industry that stimulates the economy, supports local jobs, and contributes to building healthy communities. When we prioritize diverse cultural expressions and traditions, it nurtures social connections, promotes community pride and identity, and boosts tourism by providing the authentic experiences that draw visitors to the community. Read the full report at cityoftacoma.org/AEP.



TACOMA CREATES ADVISORY BOARD

330 volunteer hours provided by TCAB Members

Tacoma Creates Advisory Board (TCAB) members represent all five City of Tacoma council districts, as well as background and experience in arts, culture, heritage, science, K-12 education, and community engagement. There is one youth member, who is also a member of the Mayor’s Youth Commission. TCAB members are appointed by the City Council to serve in an advisory role to Tacoma Creates administration.

- Wind Dell Woods, Council District 1****
- Putter Bert, Council District 2**
- Daniel Arias-Gomez, Council District 3****
- Sheree Cooks, Council District 4**
- Megan Clark, Council District 5**
- Brian Robinson, Arts**
- Katie Mattran, Culture**
- Allison Campbell, Heritage**
- Amanda Figueroa, Science**
- Roxane Hreha, Public Education**
- Sophia Agtarap, Community Engagement**
- Ava Sims, Youth***

* - Term began October 2023
 ** - Term began January 2024

Find out more about the [Tacoma Creates Advisory Board](#).

APPLICATION REVIEW PANELISTS

The following 10 community members served on the panels to review applications for the 2023-24 funding cycle. Panelists bring a diversity of personal backgrounds and experience related to cultural sector programming, youth education, public funding, and organizational management as they evaluate funding proposals using the published review criteria. These volunteer panelists put in a combined total of approximately 450 hours in reading, scoring, and discussing Tacoma Creates applications.

- Brian Boyd**
- Eli Boyd**
- Faith Brown**
- Sheree Cooks***
- Amelia Layton**
- Janece Levien**
- Naomi O’Connor***
- Brian Robinson***
- Jessica Smith**
- Greg Tanbara**

* – Tacoma Creates Advisory Board member



Latinx Unidos of the South Sound & Tacoma Arts Live



Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation



TACOMA CREATES STAFF

Tacoma Creates is administered by the City of Tacoma's Arts & Cultural Vitality Division, with three staff members fully dedicated to Tacoma Creates efforts.

Lisa Jaret

Tacoma Creates Program Manager

Clarissa Gines

Tacoma Creates Program Coordinator

Elm McCrummen

Tacoma Creates Program Assistant

Naomi Strom-Avila

Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

In addition to Tacoma Creates, the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division supports a number of programs that help develop the local arts community, including funding opportunities for individual artists and for arts projects, as well as managing the City's public art collection. The Arts & Cultural Vitality Division is part of the Community and Economic Development Department. Learn more at cityoftacoma.org/arts.



Tacoma Creates is a program of the City of Tacoma.

TACOMA CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Victoria Woodards

Position 1 – Deputy Mayor John Hines

Position 2 – Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh

*Position 3 – Council Member Keith Blocker**

Position 3 – Council Member Jamika Scott°

Position 4 – The late Council Member Catherine Ushka

Position 5 – Council Member Joe Bushnell

At-Large Position 6 – Council Member Kiara Daniels

At-Large Position 7 – Council Member Olgy Diaz

At-Large Position 8 – Council Member Kristina Walker

* – Term ended December 2023

° – Term began January 2024



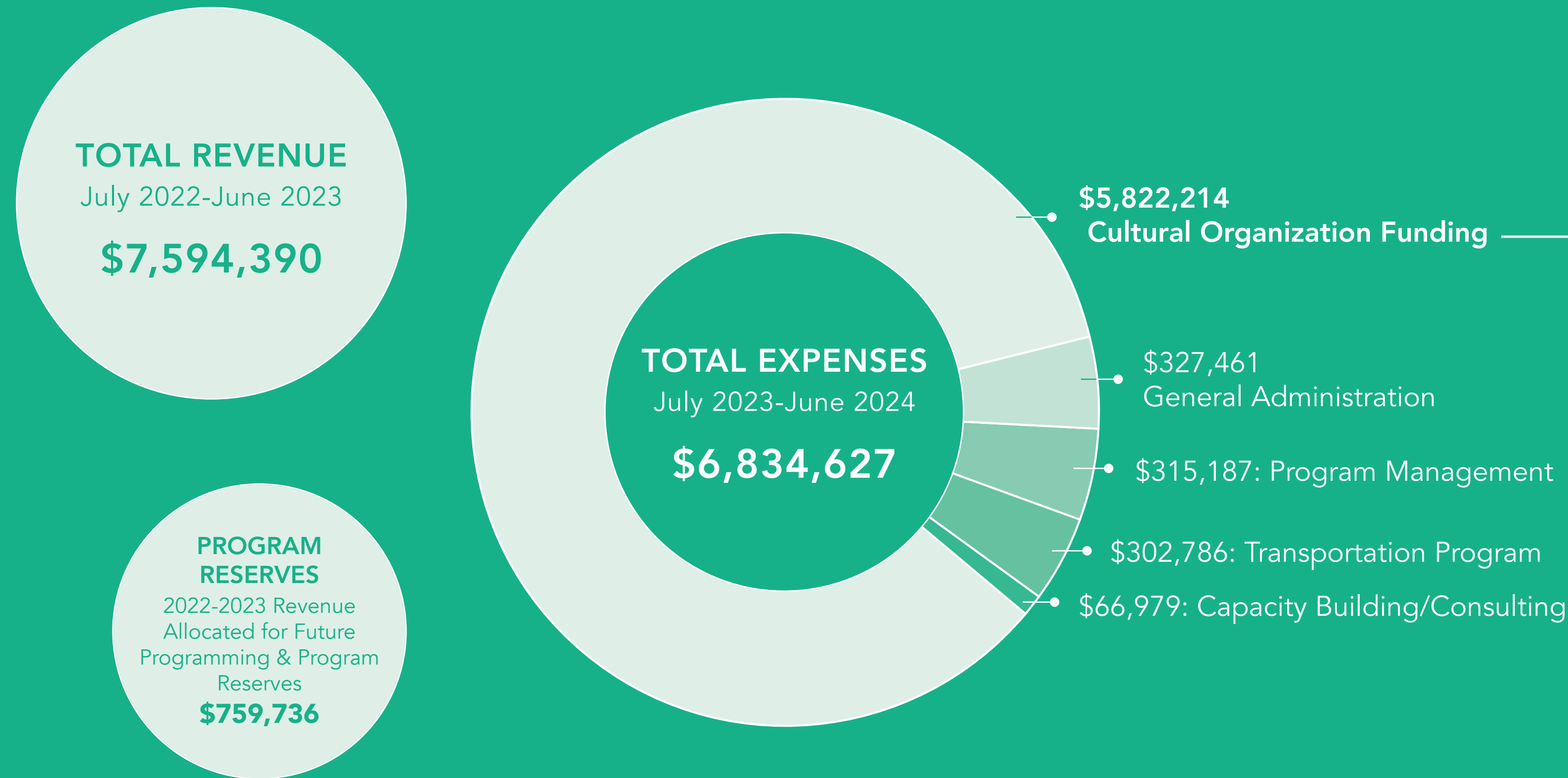
A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CATHERINE USHKA

Catherine Ushka's contributions to Tacoma and her community are profound and deeply impactful. During her tenure as the representative for District 4, she was a steadfast and passionate advocate for her constituents, always placing their needs at the forefront of her decisions. Among her numerous achievements, she co-sponsored the resolution that brought Tacoma Creates to the ballot in 2018, ensuring equity was a cornerstone of its implementation. Because of her unwavering dedication and visionary leadership, residents of District 4 and all of Tacoma now enjoy hundreds of free cultural programs annually at local libraries, schools, and community centers.

The Tacoma Creates Advisory Board, along with the staff of the Community and Economic Development Department and the Arts & Cultural Vitality Division, extend their heartfelt gratitude to Council Member Catherine Ushka. Her visionary service and enduring commitment to our community have left an indelible mark that will be cherished for years to come.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Tacoma Creates is funded by a sales tax of one-tenth of 1% in the City of Tacoma. Using a July-June program year, the revenue received in one program year will support expenses in the following year.



HERE'S HOW ORGANIZATIONS ALLOCATED THE \$5.8 MILLION OF CULTURAL ORGANIZATION FUNDING:



- 1 49% Staff Wages & Benefits
- 2 21% Contractors & Consultants (including artists)
- 3 10% Facility Rental/Maintenance
- 4 8% General Admin (including insurance, permits, etc.)
- 5 8% Supplies, Materials, Equipment
- 6 4% Promotion, Marketing, Communications

Total Revenue received July 2023-June 2024, to support program expenses in 2024-2025: **\$7,750,510**



PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover: Young ballet folklorico performers during Mi Centro's Cinco de Mayo celebration, photo by Joseph Cabrera.

Page 1: Engaged participants during Tacoma Tree Foundation's Botanical Wonders of Point Defiance Park program.

Page 2: Artist Amber Stephens (Squally) woodcarving at Foss Waterway Seaport's Boat Shop as part of Tacoma Ocean Fest, photo by Nicole Verbonus.

Page 3 (top to bottom): A young participant at Greentrike's SPARKS workshop. Participants creating flower crowns at Puget Sound Revels' May Day Celebration at Wright Park. Aztec Dancers performing at Sixth Avenue Business District's Day of the Dead event.

Page 5 (top to bottom): Tacoma students enjoy the Foss Waterway Seaport touch tank, photo by Foss Waterway Seaport staff. Fablab Nonprofit's Up and Atom workshop at Tacoma Public Library's Moore Branch.

Page 6 (clockwise from top): Tacoma Little Theatre's production of *Mississippi Delta*. Tacoma Tree Foundation leads a group nature walk through the Lincoln District. Students at Hilltop Heritage Middle School participating in a Hilltop Artists' frameworking class.

Page 9 (top to bottom): Northwest Sinfonietta's performance for STEAM into Nature campers at Tacoma Nature Center. Lincoln High School students carving out their linoleum block to be printed at Tacoma Wayzgoose, organized by Write253.

Page 10: Tacoma Online students at a family engagement workshop at Toolbox Laboratories. Photo by Lisa Monet.

Page 11 (top to bottom): A family on a community boat ride with Tacoma Boat Builders, photo by Tacoma Boat Builders' staff. Tacoma fifth graders from around the district visit the Pantages Theater to watch a special performance by Symphony Tacoma, photo by Kevin Medford.

Page 12: A seventh grader from Hilltop Heritage Middle School on a field trip to Foss Waterway Seaport, photo by Kevin Medford.

Page 13: Capoeira Vida's Explore Capoeira Vida! workshop at Tacoma Public Library's Moore Branch.

Page 15: Asia Pacific Cultural Center's cultural performance at Tacoma Historical Society's City of Destiny Festival at Foss Waterway Seaport.

Page 16: A young child engages with a cello at Tacoma Youth Symphony Association's Instrument Petting Zoo.

Page 17 (clockwise from top): Stafford Elementary School students on a tour at Buffalo Soldiers Museum. Students in Alchemy Skateboarding's SALT program build a ramp for Go Skate! Day. Esperanza Mobil Family Resource Center participants during a sewing workshop at the STAR Center, photo courtesy of Metro Parks Tacoma.

Page 18 (L-R): Performance during Asia Pacific Cultural Center's South Tacoma Heritage Festival. Performance during Calavera Collective's Día De Los Muertos event.

Page 20 (L-R): Aztec dance troupe Huehca Omeyocan Mexica performing at Festival Latinx, produced by Latinx Unidos of the South Sound and Tacoma Arts Live, photo by Northwest Communications. Performer during Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation's Walk for Reconciliation Against Racism event.

Page 21: Council Member Catherine Ushka at the McKinley Hill Neighborhood Fair in 2022, photo by Brian Cox.

Back Cover: Tacoma Opera's production of *Carmen*.

LINKS

Page 2: About Tacoma Creates: <https://tacomacreates.org/about-tacoma-creates>

Page 3: Tacoma Creates: <https://tacomacreates.org>

Page 7: Funding History: <http://tacomacreates.org/funding-history>
Funding Process: <http://tacomacreates.org/funding-opportunities>

Page 8: Equity Index: <https://tacomaequitymap.caimaps.info/CAILive/>
Program Locations Map: <https://www.tacomacreates.org/locations>

Page 10: Tacoma Creates Legislation: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/cms/cityclerk/Files/MunicipalCode/Title01-AdministrationandPersonnel.pdf

Page 13: Tacoma News Tribune article: <https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article286243530.html>

Page 14: Resolution 40622: <https://mrsc.org/getmedia/039e374b-4eec-468f-898d-407b67747ed9/t3r40622.pdf.aspx>
Tacoma 2025: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/tacoma_2025

Equity Index: <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=175030>
Office of Equity and Human Rights: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/equity_and_human_rights

Page 15: Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (JEDI): <https://www.tacomacreates.org/equity>

Page 20: Tacoma Creates Advisory Board: <http://tacomacreates.org/advisory-board>




Page 21: Arts & Cultural Vitality Division: <http://cityoftacoma.org/arts>

Back Cover:
Tacoma Creates website: <http://tacomacreates.org>
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