

**PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSION**  
**ACTION ITEM MEMO**



Item No: 6B  
Meeting Date: 5/4/2023

**DATE:** April 27, 2023  
**TO:** Port of Tacoma Commission  
**FROM:** Eric Johnson, Executive Director  
Sponsor: Local Economic Development Committee—Commissioner John McCarthy, Commissioner Kristin Ang, Matt Mauer, Darren Arakaki, and Leslie Barstow  
Project Manager: Leslie A. Barstow, Manager—Community Relations  
**SUBJECT:** LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT FUND PROGRAM (LEDIF)

**A. ACTION REQUESTED**

Request authorization for the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute an Interlocal Agreement with The City of Gig Harbor, The City of Puyallup, Tacoma Metro Parks, and Pierce County Parks and to fund investments to eight Pierce County non-profit organizations at the following amounts, from the Local Economic Development Investment Fund, for a total authorized amount of \$250,000:

City of Gig Harbor	\$150,000
City of Puyallup	\$10,000
Daffodil Festival	\$12,000
Foothills Rails To Trails	\$10,000
Foss Waterway Seaport Museum	\$10,000
Harbor Wildwatch	\$10,000
Key Peninsula Farm Council	\$3,000
Museum of Glass	\$3,000
Pierce County Parks	\$15,000
Tacoma Metro Parks	\$7,000
WA Maritime Blue	\$10,000
Western Forest Industries Museum	\$10,000

**B. BACKGROUND**

State law grants public port districts a variety of powers to bring economic development to their community. At the Port of Tacoma, economic development occurs in both direct ways—such as through the development of publicly-owned marine terminals, railroads and industrial parks (RCW 53.04.010)—as well as indirect ways through economic development investments (RCW 53.08.245).

The port's Local Economic Development Policy authorizes the port to make investments with local governments and federally registered non-profit organizations that seek to promote Washington state based international trade, tourism, or infrastructure efforts in Pierce County.

These investments include reporting requirements on how the contracted organization is performing relative to the measurements identified at the time the award is made.

These investments are made through two programs: the Local Economic Development Investment Fund and Local Economic Development Infrastructure Investment Fund. These programs are matching programs designed to assist non-profit organizations and municipal agencies in Pierce County with eligible economic development projects. The investment focus and priorities are:

1. Road and freight rail infrastructure projects that create long-term jobs;
2. Marine tourism infrastructure projects intended to attract tourists to Pierce County from outside locations;
3. Planning activities or events promoting international trade, business retention or recruitment; or
4. Planning activities or events promoting tourism intended to attract tourists to Pierce County from outside locations.

Activities cannot be political or religious in nature.

Investments shall be limited to county, city, and town government agencies or non-profit organizations in Pierce County and typically will involve the Port as a minority contributor. As a condition of the grant application, municipal entities must agree to enter into the Port of Tacoma's Interlocal Agreement in accordance with § RCW 39.34.

On December 30, 2022, the Port of Tacoma issued a request-for-proposals; 23 applications were received. A review committee composed of Commissioner John McCarthy, Commissioner Kristin Ang, Leslie Barstow, Darren Arakaki and Matt Mauer reviewed the proposals. The committee recommendations are to make investments in 12 of the projects (listed below). These recommendations total \$250,000, which is the amount budgeted for the Local Economic Development Investment fund in the Port of Tacoma's non-operating budget.

### C. SCOPE OF WORK

The review committee recommends funding twelve projects for a total investment of \$250,000 across a wide geographic area of Pierce County.

The committee's recommendation is as follows:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project or Event</b>	<b>Recommended Investment</b>
City of Gig Harbor	Anich Homeport Dock	\$150,000
City of Puyallup	Downtown Economic Development Plan	\$10,000
Daffodil Festival	Grand Floral Parade	\$12,000
Foothills Rails To Trails Coalition	Rainier To Ruston Relay Race	\$10,000
Foss Waterway Seaport Museum	Willits Brothers Canoe Exhibit	\$10,000

Harbor Wildwatch	Marine Life Center	\$10,000
Key Peninsula Farm Council	Farm & Harvest Festival	\$3,000
Museum of Glass	Glass Fest	\$3,000
Pierce County Parks	Carbon Corridor Visitor Signage & Marketing Plan	\$15,000
Tacoma Metro Parks	Pt. Defiance Flower & Garden Show	\$7,000
WA Maritime Blue	Tacoma Maritime Blue Incubator Project	\$10,000
Western Forest Industries Museum	Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad Project	\$10,000
	<b>Total 2023 recommended LEDIF Funding</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

**D. TIMEFRAME/PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The Port's allocation to a project will be committed for up to two years and payable on a reimbursement basis.

**E. FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Funding of \$250,000 for these investments was included in the 2023 non-operating budget.

Item	Budget Estimate	Estimated 2023 Expenditure
Local Economic Development Investment Fund	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

**F. ECONOMIC INVESTMENT / JOB CREATION**

This program was created to assist local municipalities and non-profits in the creation of economic development and job creation in Pierce County.

**G. CONCLUSION**

Request approval of funding recommendations provided by the Local Economic Development Investment Fund review committee for 2023, for a total authorized amount of \$250,000.

**H. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REQUEST**

Submitted proposals for recommended investments. Please refer to the submitted proposals notebook (one can be made available to Commissioners not serving on the review committee) for additional information on the recommended investments.