



# Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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## Agenda Bill Report

File Number: AB2023-669

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**File ID:** AB2023-669      **Version:** 1      **Status:** Approved  
**File Created:** 10/05/2023      **Entered by:** THelms@co.whatcom.wa.us  
**Department:** County Executive's Office      **File Type:** Resolution  
  
**Assigned to:** Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee      **Final Action:** 10/24/2023  
**Agenda Date:** 10/24/2023      **Enactment #:** RES 2023-039  
**Related Files:**

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Primary Contact Email: Tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us

### TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution approving the 2024 recommended convention center allocations for tourism-related facilities and activities as defined through RCW 67.28.1816

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

See attached

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### HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

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Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
10/24/2023	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL Aye: 2 Donovan, and Kershner Nay: 1 Frazey	
10/24/2023	Council	APPROVED Aye: 5 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Galloway, and Kershner Nay: 2 Elenbaas, and Frazey	

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**Attachments:** Proposed Resolution

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 039**

**APPROVING THE 2024 RECOMMENDED CONVENTION CENTER  
ALLOCATIONS FOR TOURISM-RELATED FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES  
AS DEFINED THROUGH RCW 67.28.1816**

**WHEREAS** on September 27, 2023, the Whatcom County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) held a public meeting to consider 2024 funding for use of Convention Center Funds; and

**WHEREAS**, of the twenty-three applications submitted, the LTAC recommends funding for all twenty-three eligible applicants in the amount of \$946,150 and further detailed in attachment A; and

**WHEREAS**, the LTAC further recommends a contingency in the amount of \$150,000 to be used in the event eligible applicants seek funding for tourism programs later in the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 funding recommendations totaling \$1,096,150 were determined based on the ability to promote and serve tourism activities in Whatcom County as defined in RCW 67.28; and

**WHEREAS**, all funding recipients must submit a report to the County describing the actual number of people traveling for business or pleasure on a trip as well as describing the results of the event of activity sponsored by the Convention Center Fund; and

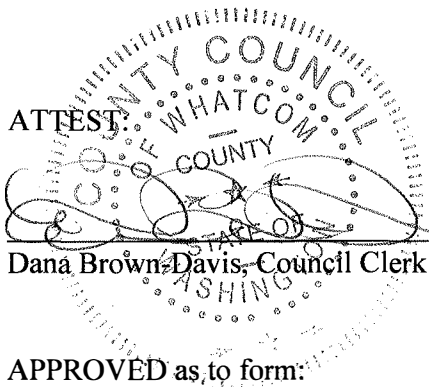
**WHEREAS**, in addition to the above referenced funding allocations directed to Chamber operations, events and festivals the LTAC further supports and recommends special project funding in the amount of \$565,775 for the delayed Wayfinding project developed by MERJE Design and facilitated by Bellingham Whatcom Tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, the LTAC will work with Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism to develop a strategic plan for future Lodging Tax Fund allocations as well identifying incremental and achievable steps to launch the Wayfinding project and other tourism related facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Convention Center Fund revenue is projected at \$1,500,000 and the 2024 fund balance is projected to be \$ 5,082,951; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Whatcom County Council hereby authorizes the County Administration to allocate \$1,661,925 from the Lodging Tax Fund for the purposes of tourism related activities as recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and detailed in attachment A.

APPROVED this 24th day of October, 2023.

ATTEST:  
  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form:

Christopher Quinn per email 10/5/2023  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Attachment "A"  
2024 Whatcom County Lodging Tax Committee Recommendations

Requesting Agency	2024 Requests	Committee Approved
<b>Chamber VIC or Tourism Bureau</b>		
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$25,000	\$25,000
Bellingham/Whatcom Co. Tourism - operations	\$200,000	\$200,000
Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce - VIC + temp restrooms	\$136,000	\$136,000
Mt. Baker Foothills Chamber/Visitor Center	\$146,000	\$146,000
Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce	\$18,900	\$18,900
<b>Chambers &amp; Tourism SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$525,900</b>	<b>\$525,900</b>
Whatcom County Parks Glacier Restrooms cc: 14131	\$19,500	\$19,500
Whatcom County Parks Guide cc: 14131	\$6,500	\$6,500
Allied Arts	\$15,000	\$15,000
Bellingham Festival of Music	\$10,000	\$10,000
Bellingham Symphony Orchestra	\$5,000	\$5,000
Cascadia Film Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000
Downtown Sounds (New)	\$30,000	\$30,000
Jansen Art Center (New)	\$10,000	\$10,000
Noisy Waters Mural Festival (New)	\$20,900	\$20,900
NW Tune UP	\$50,000	\$50,000
Parks Foundation North Cascades Bluegrass Festival	\$25,000	\$25,000
Port of Bellingham - Art Installation (New)	\$75,000	\$75,000
Scottish Dance Society	\$15,500	\$15,500
Seafeast	\$30,000	\$30,000
Sumas Historical Museum (New)	\$7,850	\$7,850
Sustainable Connections	\$40,000	\$40,000
Whatcom Events	\$35,000	\$35,000
Whatcom Museum Foundation (New)	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>Event and Festivals SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$420,250</b>	<b>\$420,250</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$946,150</b>	<b>\$946,150</b>
20% Contingency used for mid-year allocations		<b>\$150,000</b>
TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING REQUESTS w/Contingency	<b>\$946,150</b>	<b>\$1,096,150</b>
<b>Special Project Request</b>		
WC Portion of Multi-jurisdictional Wayfinding Project	<b>\$565,775</b>	<b>\$565,775</b>
<b>PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,511,925</b>	<b>\$1,661,925</b>