



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2024-769

File ID:	AB2024-769	Version:	1	Status:	Approved
File Created:	11/06/2024	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:	11/19/2024
Agenda Date:	11/19/2024			Enactment #:	RES 2024-052
Related Files:					

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

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution approving the 2025 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

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
11/19/2024	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED TO HOLD IN COMMITTEE	
	Aye: 2	Byrd, and Donovan	
	Nay: 0		
	Absent: 1	Galloway	
11/19/2024	Council	APPROVED	
	Aye: 7	Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler	
	Nay: 0		

Attachments: Proposed Resolution

PROPOSED BY: Executive

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-052

**APPROVING THE 2025 RECOMMENDED CONVENTION CENTER
ALLOCATIONS FOR TOURISM-RELATED FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES
AS DEFINED THROUGH RCW 67.28.1816**

WHEREAS on November 4, 2024, the Whatcom County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) held a public meeting to review 2025 funding applications for use of Convention Center Funds; and

WHEREAS, of the twenty-five applications submitted, the LTAC recommends funding for eighteen eligible applicants in the amount of \$1,045,700 and further detailed in attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 call for applicants emphasized three funding priorities which included; (1) tourism agency, chamber visitor center operations, (2) entities providing Whatcom County (year-round) visitor services and (3) festivals/events hosted in Whatcom County (unincorporated); and

WHEREAS, the eighteen funding recommendations totaling \$1,045,700 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 or activity sponsored by the Convention Center Fund; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Convention Center Fund revenue is projected at \$1,600,000 and the 2025 fund balance is projected to be \$5,809,249; and

WHEREAS, the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee is developing a strategic plan for the purpose of establishing formal funding priorities which will encourage and benefit Whatcom County tourism including eligible capital projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whatcom County Council hereby authorizes the County Administration to allocate \$1,045,700 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 19th day of November, 2024.

ATTEST:
The seal of Whatcom County, Washington, is a circular emblem. It features a central five-pointed star surrounded by a wreath. The words "WHATCOM COUNTY" are written in a circle around the star, and "WASHINGTON" is written at the bottom. The word "ATTEST:" is printed to the left of the seal.
Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Barry Buchanan", is written over a horizontal line.
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form:

Brandon Waldron per email 11/7/2024
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

ATTACHMENT 'A'

CONVENTION CENTER - HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDS - 2025

Requesting Agency	2025 Requests	Committee Approved
2025 Budget	\$1,109,000.00	\$1,109,000.00
Chamber VIC or Tourism Bureau		
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$30,000	\$30,000
Bellingham/Whatcom Co. Tourism - operations	\$250,000	\$250,000
Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce - VIC + temp restrooms	\$230,000	\$230,000
Mt. Baker Foothills Chamber/Visitor Center	\$226,000	\$226,000
Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce	\$26,000	\$26,000
Chambers & Tourism SUBTOTAL	\$762,000	\$762,000
Whatcom County Parks Glacier Restrooms cc: 14131	\$34,500	\$34,500
Whatcom County Parks Guide cc: 14131	\$6,500	\$6,500
Allied Arts	\$17,000	\$8,200
Bellingham Bells <i>(New)</i>	\$35,000	\$0
BIAWC - Ribs & Roofs BBQ Competition <i>(New)</i>	\$20,000	\$10,000
BB Polar Plunge 2026	\$25,000	\$25,000
Birch Bay Waterslides <i>(New)</i>	\$90,000	\$0
Cascade Mtn Ascents <i>(New)</i>	\$44,957	\$7,500
Cascadia Film Festival	\$12,000	\$0
Jansen Art Center	\$32,275	\$15,000
NW Tune UP	\$50,000	\$0
Parks Foundation North Cascades Bluegrasss Festival	\$30,000	\$30,000
Scottish Dance Society	\$18,000	\$18,000
Seafeast	\$30,000	\$0
Strings & Things Pt. Roberts Int'l Music Festival <i>(New)</i>	\$30,000	\$30,000
Sustainable Connections	\$45,000	\$45,000
Upfront Theater <i>(New)</i>	\$15,473	\$0
Whatcom Events	\$40,000	\$40,000
Wings Over Water NW Birding Festival <i>(New)</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000
Event and Festivals SUBTOTAL	\$585,705	\$279,700
TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING REQUESTS	\$1,347,705	\$1,041,700