

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**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 _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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
Chamber VIC or Tourism Bureau		
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
Chambers & Tourism SUBTOTAL	\$525,900	\$525,900
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
Event and Festivals SUBTOTAL	\$420,250	\$420,250
TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING REQUESTS	\$946,150	\$946,150
20% Contingency used for mid-year allocations		\$150,000
TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING REQUESTS w/Contingency	\$946,150	\$1,096,150
Special Project Request		
WC Portion of Multi-jurisdictional Wayfinding Project	\$565,775	\$565,775
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$1,511,925	\$1,661,925