

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**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 proving 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 of 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 _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

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