

Ideas for how participatory budgeting in Tacoma might help unhoused? Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 7.21.23

Advice to a young poet

Never pretend
To be a unicorn
By sticking a plunger
On your head

— *Martin Espada, 2006, The Republic of Poetry*

Participatory Budgeting in Tacoma

If you live or work in East Tacoma (98404 and 98418), please vote now to choose which project is funded \$1,000,000: <https://bit.ly/pbeasttacoma>

If you live or work in District 2 (Downtown, NE Tacoma, Stadium, North Slope) and are interested in learning more about the community leadership team, please email me at: kcoble@cityoftacoma.org

Question: How do people get on the Leadership Teams of the budgeting process?

Ideas that serve homeless

- Heat mitigation/ weatherization
- Tree Canopies
- A water spigot.
- Public phone bank facility; Place to charge phones.
- Outreach worker storage for supplies/distribution.
- Food truck mall for food deserts. Food truck co-op.
- De-paving would be a good use of the city improvement funds
- More mobile showers, Equip more clinics with showers & laundry services
- An urban rest stop or hygiene hub for bathroom and shower facilities. (x3)
- A mobile cooling center. Like a bus that would park in an area and give people a way to get out of the heat/cold. When full, put a time limit, to allow people to recover before going out again.
- Low-income housing and comprehensive wraparound services that are accountable.
- Seed money for a community land trust for housing that helps people stabilize and move to more permanent housing. Define "shelter" as this kind of stabilization site and help transition to more permanent housing.
- We could develop Hubs of Healing where housing, growing food, internal governance processes, etc.; where people learn and grow and find multiple pathways away from homelessness.
- Need robust ongoing BH services to help people decompress from having to sleep on the streets and get ready to function in more socially engaged settings.

- Allow recently-housed people to stay in a place that feels safe until appropriate housing is available.

The cynical pushback on participatory budgeting:

\$1M of a \$4.3B budget and splitting the city into 5 districts and different conversations isn't a big commitment and is a lot of energy directed to dubious collective impact. We spend more than this on Nimby boulders, fencing, and sweeps. What if the thousand people participating in this put that energy into demanding more affordable housing? This hijacks a lot of budget policy bandwidth and doesn't feel like a productive place for coalition energy. Nonetheless, we are impressed with Kenny's sincerity.

Kenny's pushback on the cynical pushback ...

I can understand your cynicism. This is definitely a baby step. (For the record, it's \$5,000,000 total.) I will never diminish your valid concerns, but I will also share my perspective that this kind of project is also instructive for the City, to educate us that we can keep working more and more with our community members and see amazing things happen. It's the coolest thing I've ever gotten to work on and I will continue to advocate that we should do more and more co-creation with our community.

There's a lot of good we can do with five million dollars. And there's a lot the City needs to do to better serve its residents. Both things are true. I would love to partner with people here to succeed at both. Please keep us accountable. If you don't see the money spent as directed, speak up.

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

League of Women Voters Election Forum recordings can be viewed here.

https://lwvtpc.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=843000&module_id=612433

Ideal Option MAT treatment TACOMA location is now OPEN. 17th and Tacoma Ave. We do talk walk ins and Medicaid/medicare. NO ID needed. Make referrals for treatment at 1-844-GO- IDEAL. We have a resource fair on August 25th from 12-3. Please come through, meet other community partners and bring folks to receive resources! I'll be providing food! If you want to attend-Please email me at rebekahcantrell@idealoption.net

If you are interested in the Hilltop Hive Home site please contact Rian Booker. If you like to support the **August 5th benefit concert for Golden Goose Homes** or have donation items for the silent auction, please contact me at rianbooker@gmail.com

PRIDE Fest Puyallup is this Sunday at 4pm at Grayland park. It's been asked that people bring water, to be donated to local efforts.

Resource Center address, hours, and contact info: 4009 South 56th St, hours currently Mon/Wed/Fri 10am-3pm, store hours 7 days/10am-5pm Djacobson@svdptacoma.org, 253-355-5868

Homeless Outreach Program Manager at Comprehensive Life Resources: Anna Nguyen, 253.396.5264 (call only, no text), or email aknguyen@cmhshare.org

Save the date: Fabulous Finds August 11th and 12th. Contact Theresa if you have donations tpdrutis@nctacoma.org

Tacoma Street Books is making progress. Still seeking:

- Fiction - literary, westerns, science fiction, horror (think Stephen King or Dean Koontz) and thrillers (like James Patterson).
- Work by underrepresented writers - books by BIPOC and LGBTQ writers are popular so they are harder to keep in stock.
- Nonfiction like history, spirituality, self-help, wilderness survival, foraging, herbal guides, etc. Also needed are new puzzle books and adult coloring books.
- Spanish language - fiction, poetry, nonfiction, children's books.

Specific requests are already being made and include: Stephen King (Blaze), mythology (especially Greek, Roman, Norse, Egyptian), "Heaven Is For Real," and James Clavel's "Shogun."

More on Xylazine

A flyer about Xylazine from the National Harm Reduction coalition:

<https://harmreduction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Xylazine-in-the-Drug-Supply-one-pager.pdf>

Tacoma Needle Exchange is the primary point of contact for reporting concerns or asking questions about the Xylazine:

<https://www.tacomaneedleexchange.org/>

SAMHSA webinar here: <https://hhrcrtraining.org/events-webinars/webinar/16424/xylazine-introduction>

Xylazine: An Introduction for Service Providers Working with Unhoused Individuals | HHRC (hhrcrtraining.org)

Towards a new understanding: The California Statewide Study of Persons Experiencing Homelessness, June 2023. https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/sites/default/files/2023-06/CASPEH_Report_62023.pdf

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Tell the coalition about your organization's good work. Contact tpdrutis@nctacoma.org to schedule a brief presentation. 🙏

Recent Press

What we learned from the deepest look at homelessness in decades.

<https://www.nytimes.com/column/ezra-klein-podcast>

Podcast on Pierce County's ORCA Lift program.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5vZ5Hyrd14jj472RP3Oysu?si=CvHuUNJmTm2u9KozOR4AhA>

Pierce Transit ORCA Lift Website: <https://www.piercetransit.org/orcalift/>

Ongoing Resources and Needs

Outreach Supply Need and Share form: <https://forms.gle/2zfK8Y5JvC1K5eXLA>

Updates to Tacoma Housing Code can be found here

https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/CMO/OEHR/RHC%20Outreach%20Spring%202023%20-CE%20final.pdf

Information on Housing4All ballot measure: <https://www.tacoma4all.org/>

How to sign up for Coalition listserv:

You can sign up for the email lists here: <http://pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Find Naloxone Near You. Use Naloxone Finder, from www.stopoverdose.org. | Stopoverdose.org

Renters' Readiness Stabilization classes sign-up form REGISTER NOW!

<https://forms.gle/fEz8CjSfzS3ZvKRe6>

The Housing Narrative Lab has published new messaging resources for how to talk about homelessness, Download the report at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/c6faf641-e14f-4048-95d9-e408daadd9c1>

Housing Alliance Advocacy Links

WLIHA Advocacy pages - Take Action Now! <https://www.wliha.org/take-action>

Advocacy resources: 2023 Public Policy Priorities <https://www.wliha.org/advocacy/2023-public-policy-priorities>

Join the weekly advocate calls on Fridays, 2-3pm on Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsdumvrDMtHtSqWteCBB4VIDeAollRnuCl](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsdumvrDMtHtSqWteCBB4VIDeAollRnuCl)

<https://leg.wa.gov>

<https://twv.org>

Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>