

**AGENDA**  
**GIG HARBOR LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Thursday, March 13, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.  
Executive Conference Room

Optional Virtual Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93352757315>  
Call-in: (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 933 5275 7315

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 12 and October 8, 2024**
- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
  - A. 2025-26 Financial Outlook**
  - B. Cultural Access Program**
- V. ADJOURN**

**MINUTES**  
**GIG HARBOR LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Thursday, October 8, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.**  
**Executive Conference Room**

**Call To Order / Roll Call:** Chair Mary Barber called the meeting to order. Committee members Carrienne Ekberg, Stephanie Lile, Miriam Battson, Jannae Mitton, Sue Braaten, and Patsy Irwin were present. Lindsey Stover was excused.

**Review of Lodging Tax Grant Applications:** The committee reviewed the lodging tax grant applications received.

**MOTION:** Move to recommend the city council enter into agreements as follows to award lodging tax grants (Braaten/Mitton):

| <b>Applicant</b>                        | <b>Event/Activity</b>                 | <b>Amount Awarded</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| GH Canoe and Kayak Racing Team          | Paddlers Cup/Narrows Challenge        | \$11,625.00           |
| GH Film Festival                        | Film Festival                         | \$22,500.00           |
| Permission to Start Dreaming Foundation | Prayer Breakfast & Race for a Soldier | \$36,000.00           |
| Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance          | Operations                            | \$67,500.00           |
| GH BoatShop                             | Operations                            | \$26,250.00           |
| Harbor History Museum                   | Operations                            | \$63,000.00           |
| Harbor WildWatch                        | Operations                            | \$27,000.00           |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>\$253,875.00</b>   |

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.

  
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Joshua Stecker, CMC  
City Clerk

**MINUTES**  
**GIG HARBOR LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2024 – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Community Rooms**

**Call To Order / Roll Call:** Chair Mary Barber called the meeting to order. Committee members Carrienne Ekberg, Stephanie Lile, Miriam Battson, Sue Braaten, and Lindsey Stover were present. Jannae Mitton and Patsy Irwin were excused.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 26, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

**Review of Lodging Tax Grant Applications:** The committee reviewed the applications and will schedule a special meeting to make its final recommendations.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

  
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Joshua Stecker, CMC  
City Clerk

## 2025-26 Lodging Tax Fund Financial Outlook

|                                |          |                     |
|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 2025-26 Beginning Fund Balance | Actual   | \$917,025.73        |
| Sports Complex Phase 1B        | Awarded  | -\$500,000.00       |
| 2025-26 Revenue                | Budgeted | \$1,083,373.00      |
| 2025-26 Chamber                | Awarded  | -\$960,000.00       |
| 2025 Grants                    | Awarded  | -\$253,875.00       |
| <b>Remainder</b>               |          | <b>\$286,523.73</b> |

The 2025-26 revenue estimate is the biggest variable. It may end up being higher or lower depending on how much lodging tax is collected and how much interest is earned on the fund balance. It's unlikely that we will be able to adjust the expected revenue number before we award 2026 grants. As it stands, we should have roughly the same amount available for 2026 grants as we did for 2025 grants.

## **Gig Harbor Cultural Access Program FAQ**

### **What is a Cultural Access Program?**

A Cultural Access Program is a community-driven initiative that provides funding to support arts, heritage, science, and cultural organizations. These programs help expand access to cultural experiences for residents, particularly students and underserved populations. If implemented, Gig Harbor's Cultural Access Program would support local non-profits and schools. Cultural access programs are established in accordance with Washington State law ([RCW 36.160](#))

### **How is a Cultural Access Program funded?**

Funding for a Cultural Access Program comes from a .1% increase in local sales tax, approved by voters or done by a vote of City Council. The revenue collected is dedicated specifically to supporting local cultural organizations, educational programming, and expanded public access to the arts and sciences. These funds cannot be used for other city services or programs.

### **How would it benefit local non-profits?**

Local cultural organizations—such as museums, performing arts groups, and science centers—could receive funding to enhance their programs, increase outreach, and improve facilities. This support enables these non-profits to offer more community events, workshops, and exhibitions that enrich Gig Harbor's cultural landscape.

### **How would it support schools and students?**

A portion of the funds would be allocated to educational initiatives, helping schools provide more arts, science, and cultural experiences for students. This could include field trips, artist-in-residence programs, and classroom resources that bring hands-on learning opportunities to Gig Harbor's youth.

### **Who would oversee the program?**

Program management falls to the city, with the city council responsible for determining the allocation of cultural access funds. This includes providing funding for program startup and administration costs, school access costs, and the amount available to be awarded as grants to cultural organizations. The city council is also responsible for determining guidelines, criteria, and procedures for funding cultural organization. The city may designate another public agency or non-profit (one which is not a cultural organization) to administer the grant program. An advisory committee may be formed to assist the city council with any of these decisions.

### **How can I learn more?**

For more information please contact [cityclerk@gigharborwa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@gigharborwa.gov) or attend upcoming public meetings. Community input is essential in determining if this is a right fit for Gig Harbor.