MEMO

Date: October 14, 2026
To: Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
From: Chuck Denney, Parks and Recreation Director

CITY OF TUMWATER

Proposed Action

This memo outlines the distribution of Lodging Tax funds for tourism-related historic and cultural events and activities in Tumwater.

Background

Based on the imposed 4% Lodging Tax, the City receives two allocations of revenue. The first 2% funds are designated by City Council (Resolution No. R2016-006) for tourism-related historic and cultural programs. The second 2% funds are for tourism-generating events and marketing. This memo addresses the use of the first 2% historic and cultural program funds.

In 2026, funding was distributed as follows:

Historic/Cultural	2026
Historic Buildings (City)	$ 70,000
Historic Programs (OTF)	$110,000
Historic Old Brewhouse Tower (City)	$ 30,000

In 2024, the City maintained the City's historic house inventory (Brewmaster's House and Crosby House) and the historic cemetery with minor improvements, utilities, security, repairs, pest control, landscaping and insurance. The City has partnered with additional community groups for volunteer work at the historic cemetery and this significant work will continue into 2027. The City's Volunteer Program also dedicated hours to a number of major maintenance improvements to the cemetery. The Parks Department has continued to work with Mills & Mills, the adjacent private cemetery and funeral home, to help maintain and improve the cemetery property.

The City continued to contract with the Olympia Tumwater Foundation for provision of historic programming and services. This included the Heritage Builders Program, a rotating historical display at City Hall, research regarding the historic home registry and process, event participation, support of the historic home program, and adapting historical district walking tours. Public access and events are planned in the historical district in 2027.

Work to preserve and restore this iconic old brewhouse structure is scaled back. The brick replacement and masonry

repair project is complete and engineering for seismic stabilization is in the draft phase. The Brewhouse Tower is closed to visitors. It is not anticipated that construction work will take place in 2027, but the City does plan to improve site security, fencing and window protections for the facility.

Lodging tax funds are an important part of the project viability as they provide a source of cash for improvements outside of the grant that can be used for capital improvements and marketing.

2027 Proposal

Based on the prior City Council direction and the City's inventory of historic assets, the funds for 2027 are planned to be expended in the following fashion:

Historic/Cultural	2027
Historic Buildings (City)	$ 155,000
Historic Programs (OTF)	$ 60,000
Historic Old Brewhouse Tower (City)	$ 10,000

Funds will be spent similar to prior years. The building portion pays for operational costs for the Crosby and Brewmaster houses and the historic cemetery. In 2027, we will be replacing the cedar shake roof and installing gutters at the Crosby House. We will continue to work with volunteers to do minor maintenance of the cemetery.

The City is continuing to contract with the Olympia Tumwater Foundation for historic programs and services. The City has found this partnership to be an effective and efficient means of providing quality programming to the community and as a valuable resource for City and other historic projects in Tumwater. The presentation and interpretation of Tumwater's history is an important aspect to the overall "Tumwater Craft" initiative that celebrates and builds upon the community's legacy around brewing.

To meet JLARC's reporting requirements, we will need a motion from the Committee to approve the $225,000 for the Historic and Cultural Program funds as described above for 2027.