

Joint Municipal Action Committee  
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# JMAC



**Mission:** JMAC concentrates its collective work under three strategic themes:

**Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI)**  
**Public Health and Safety**  
**Community Wealth Building**



Park Guides are part of a new multi-agency alternative response model.



Participation by students and employers in the Jobs 253 program is growing rapidly.

## 2023 Highlights

### JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)

**Expanded use of the Tacoma Equity Index:** This mapping tool overlays factors influencing life outcomes that can be used to identify underserved communities. JMAC members learned how the Equity Index is informing decisions on grant awards, planning of programs and services, and budgeting.

**Equity Action Collaborative (EAC):** Housed at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, the EAC assists its members to create, implement, and evaluate practices and policies that center equitable community engagement. Language Access has been a primary focus, with interagency pilot projects that leverage community expertise and build trust in Ukrainian, Spanish, Khmer, and Vietnamese-speaking communities.

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Summer Teen Late Nights:** Under the Whole Child commitment, Tacoma Public Schools challenged JMAC to address youth violence. Coordinated by the nonprofit organization Greentrike, JMAC members and community providers provided a dozen safe spaces for teens, including free food, games, and activities five nights a week for 10 weeks. Over 10,000 entries were recorded. JMAC members helped distribute flyers in several neighborhoods.

**Imagine Justice Project and Peace Point:** JMAC received two briefings on the Imagine Justice Project, an initiative undertaken to support criminal justice system-involved youth, focusing on positive youth development and community-centered healing. Pierce County committed to allocating funding to support the work.

**Community Safety Strategy:** The City of Tacoma began developing a comprehensive Community Safety Strategy that will consider a range of factors, including social, economic, and environmental conditions. City staff conducted stakeholder engagement, including feedback from JMAC, to inform the draft plan.

**Decarbonization Plan:** The City of Tacoma provided a progress report as it seeks to reduce the organization's carbon footprint and encourage peer governments to take similar steps. Accomplishments so far include transitioning two City-owned facilities from natural gas heating to electric heat pumps, prioritizing zero-emission fleet vehicle purchases, and planning electric vehicle charging infrastructure at all City facilities.

**Transit Sustainability:** Among other accomplishments, Pierce Transit reported emitting 0.72 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger mile traveled across all modes of travel, a 27% decrease from 2021.



*The Summer Late Nights program offered a variety of services, including back-to-school haircuts.*



*Pierce Transit now has 9 battery electric buses in its fleet, which save on fuel costs and tailpipe emissions.*

**Pierce County:** The County has a Sustainability 2030 Plan and decarbonization goals in alignment with Washington State's target for a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

**Port of Tacoma:** In 2023, the Port of Tacoma Commission voted to phase out greenhouse gas emissions under the Port's direct control by 2040, accelerating the target from 2050.

**Public Safety Alternative Response Models:** Tacoma Public Libraries, Metro Parks Tacoma, and the City of Tacoma developed new programs to respond to certain public safety situations without immediately involving law enforcement officers. These alternative response roles are deployed when there is no threat to life or property and provide education and/or connections to appropriate social services.

**Behavioral Health Alternative Response Models:** The City of Tacoma and Pierce Transit initiated new programs that deploy professionals trained to respond to mental health and substance use crises rather than immediately involving law enforcement. Additionally, Pierce County funds MultiCare Behavioral Health co-responder and alternative response teams to connect individuals with appropriate services and help divert individuals in need of services from emergency hospital departments and jails.

**Homelessness Prevention and Mitigation:** Pierce County and the City of Tacoma shared their aligned strategies to ensure that affordable housing is available, that everyone experiencing homelessness can access permanent stable housing, and that homelessness interventions are effective for all populations. The City and County are also prioritizing the creation of a unified homelessness system.

## COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

**Youth Employment:** Participation in the Jobs 253 program grew from 1,000 total students over 10 years to 1,212 students in 2022-23 alone. Tacoma Public Schools added a financial literacy credential to bolster the program and continues to work with local partners to boost employment in the skilled trades and the maritime industry. Additionally, programming for students interested in healthcare careers is being offered at Mount Tahoma and Stadium High Schools.

**MWBE Contracting:** Tacoma Anchor Network's Local Procurement Work Group – supported by several JMAC members – is developing a regional effort to improve contracting with Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBE). A national grant will support data collection and coaching.



# Joint Municipal Action Committee **JMAC**



PUYALLUP TRIBE  
OF INDIANS



## 2023 JMAC Members

**Kristina Walker**, JMAC Chair, City of Tacoma + Pierce Transit

**Ryan Mello**, JMAC Vice Chair, Pierce County + Pierce Transit

**Kristin Ang**, Port of Tacoma

**Rosie Ayala**, Metro Parks Tacoma

**Elizabeth Bonbright**, Tacoma Public Schools

**Marty Campbell**, Pierce County + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

**Kiara Daniels**, City of Tacoma + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

**Deanna Keller**, Port of Tacoma

**Andrea Smith**, Metro Parks Tacoma

**Bill Sterud**, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

**Korey Strozier**, Tacoma Public Schools

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