

FUTURE WORK

As the City of Tacoma embarks on future civic engagement capacity-building work, we recommend that the City's RFP process include the following as part of a continued scope of work:

Ensure broad public participation and input in this process: This falls outside of the scope of this project, but a deeper understanding of the public's experience as they engage with the City is essential in crafting future strategies for engagement. In particular, City staff working alongside community liaisons or consultants to gather this input will result in increased public trust in the process.

Include the steering group of internal and external stakeholders to provide leadership for this work: Recognizing the wide array of practices happening across the City, the organization stands to benefit from input of staff in different departments and at different leadership levels, as well as from the input of community members who serve in a leadership capacity. This could be the first task of the Civic Engagement Steering Group proposed above.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AS A PATH TO EQUITY

Overall, this report highlights the importance of inclusive, robust, and sustainable civic engagement practices, which together form a core pillar of equitable city government. Cumulatively, the findings and recommendations presented by this document support the City of Tacoma as it strives to implement Tacoma 2025 and the Equity and Empowerment Framework. In addition to the importance of civic engagement for local democracy, more effective civic engagement will aid the City of Tacoma in crafting better public policy as it accommodates growth and pursues sustainability goals.



MA Community Planning students sorting through data from interviews with City staff. All of the recommendations included in this report are based on the City of Tacoma's unique context and designed to support the organization as it continues to promote equity through improved civic engagement. ANNEKA OLSON