

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, January 22, 2024 CONTACT: Shelly Leavens, Director of Communications & Marketing 360-301-8680 <u>sleavens@cityofpt.us</u>

## CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND LODGING TAX COMMITTEE AND CITY ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCE GRANT FUNDING FOR 2024

LTAC and PTAC grant programs seeking proposals for funding local events

PORT TOWNSEND – The City of Port Townsend Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) and City of Port Townsend Arts Commission (PTAC) are inviting proposals for 2024 grant funding. Grants are available from LTAC for activities that attract visitors to Port Townsend and grants from PTAC may be used for arts and culture events.

## **LTAC Grants**

Port Townsend Lodging Tax Advisory Committee's (LTAC's) vision of sustainable tourism is to reinvest community resources to enhance the lives of both residents and visitors.

Community organizations interested in LTAC grants can apply in two rounds, spring and fall. All applications should connect to the vision of City LTAC and must meet the requirements of RCW 67.28, regulating the use of Lodging Tax funds. Event organizers are also asked to demonstrate the success of bringing visitors to Port Townsend for overnight stays, with a focus on the shoulder seasons (October through May). \$40,000 is available in LTAC grants this year, with approximately \$20,000 in each round. Funding for projects can range between \$1,000 - \$10,000 depending on the number of applicants and eligible projects. The application deadline for the spring round of funding is Friday, February 23, and proposals will be considered at a regular meeting of LTAC scheduled for Tuesday, March 12. Sample proposals, criteria, deadlines, and an application form are all available on the City's website. A recorded grant application webinar will be held on Monday, January 29, at 12:30 p.m.

## **PTAC Grants**

The Arts Commission's mission as an appointed City Commission is to facilitate public arts programs that enhance the cultural life of community residents.

PTAC grants are awarded throughout the year, with \$22,000 total available for six rounds (\$3,666 in each round). The Arts Commission encourages applicants from all backgrounds to apply and PTAC-funded events are those that bring the arts to the public. This can include performances, exhibitions, talks, screenings, or arts education-related public projects. Each



project must have at least one pay-what-you-wish event or free entry. First-time applicants are encouraged to apply. PTAC is dedicated to supporting artists and cultural events that have a significant connection to the City, and events that promote public awareness of and interest in our creative community. Interested applicants can find the full schedule of application deadlines and PTAC meetings on the City's website.

## Both Advisory Committees are seeking new members! Visit the <u>Boards & Commissions</u> webpage to learn more and apply.

Co-owner of the Old Consulate Inn and LTAC Vice Chair, Nathan Barnett, says, "We look forward to seeing proposals this year that reflect LTAC's vision. Being in the hospitality business alongside my work on LTAC, PT Main Street, and Olympic Peninsula Steam, I know how important it is for us to invite everyone to the party - connecting visitors and residents through events new and old is not just fun, it supports our social fabric and is part of a vibrant year-round economy."

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For more information on LTAC including RCW 67.28, grant criteria, the yearly LTAC funding cycle and link to register for the webinar, go to: <u>https://cityofpt.us/bc/page/lodging-tax-advisory-committee</u>. Questions about City Lodging Tax can be sent to <u>LTAC@cityofpt.us</u>.

For more information on PTAC including grant FAQs, the yearly PTAC funding cycle, and the grant application, go to the PTAC webpage: <u>https://cityofpt.us/bc/page/arts-commission-0</u> Questions about the City Arts Commission can be sent to <u>artscomm@cityofpt.us</u>.