



FOUNDATION FOR TACOMA STUDENTS

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019 STRATEGY & FINANCIALS



# THE TACOMA WAY

Over the last decade, the collective action of businesses, youth-serving organizations, nonprofits, and institutions — alongside Tacoma Public Schools' commitment to community engagement and data transparency — has transformed education in Tacoma. High school graduation rates have skyrocketed, from 55% to 89%. Tacoma kids are wearing their potential on their sleeves, and we can see the promise for the future of our city through their dreams.

As a community, it's in our DNA to look beyond individual goals and consider how strategies and people can work in coordination. What began as a reactive approach to a USA Today headline has evolved into something much greater — a community partnership committed to collaboration.

The same energy and belief in collaboration that first brought Tacoma together in 2010 around high school completion continues now for the success of all young people — cradle to career. This is the Tacoma Way.

Today, the 'Tacoma Way' is the community's cultural fabric advancing us toward data transparency and literacy, cross-industry participation and alignment, and shared ownership and accountability. Together, we envision a Tacoma where every child succeeds in school, career, and life.

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## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR TACOMA STUDENTS

From the beginning, the Foundation for Tacoma Students has worked to be responsive to the needs of the community — cradle to career. We do this by providing key organizational and data-driven support and a collective impact model that Tacoma has made their own.

Serving as the only cradle-to-career intermediary in Tacoma, the Foundation for Tacoma Students plays the unique role of helping align organizations, institutions and individuals — community partners — around positive outcomes for students. In our efforts coordinating the various levers that influence student success, the Foundation has helped raise the profile of Tacoma, attracting regional and national investments in our community.

The distinction between the Foundation for Tacoma Students and the Graduate Tacoma movement is necessary to understanding how change in Tacoma takes place. Where the Foundation

provides the staffing and daily support of a whole community working together, it is the movement of community partners that has led to our collective success over the years. Their partnership is rooted in shared responsibility, leadership and accountability for all Tacoma students.

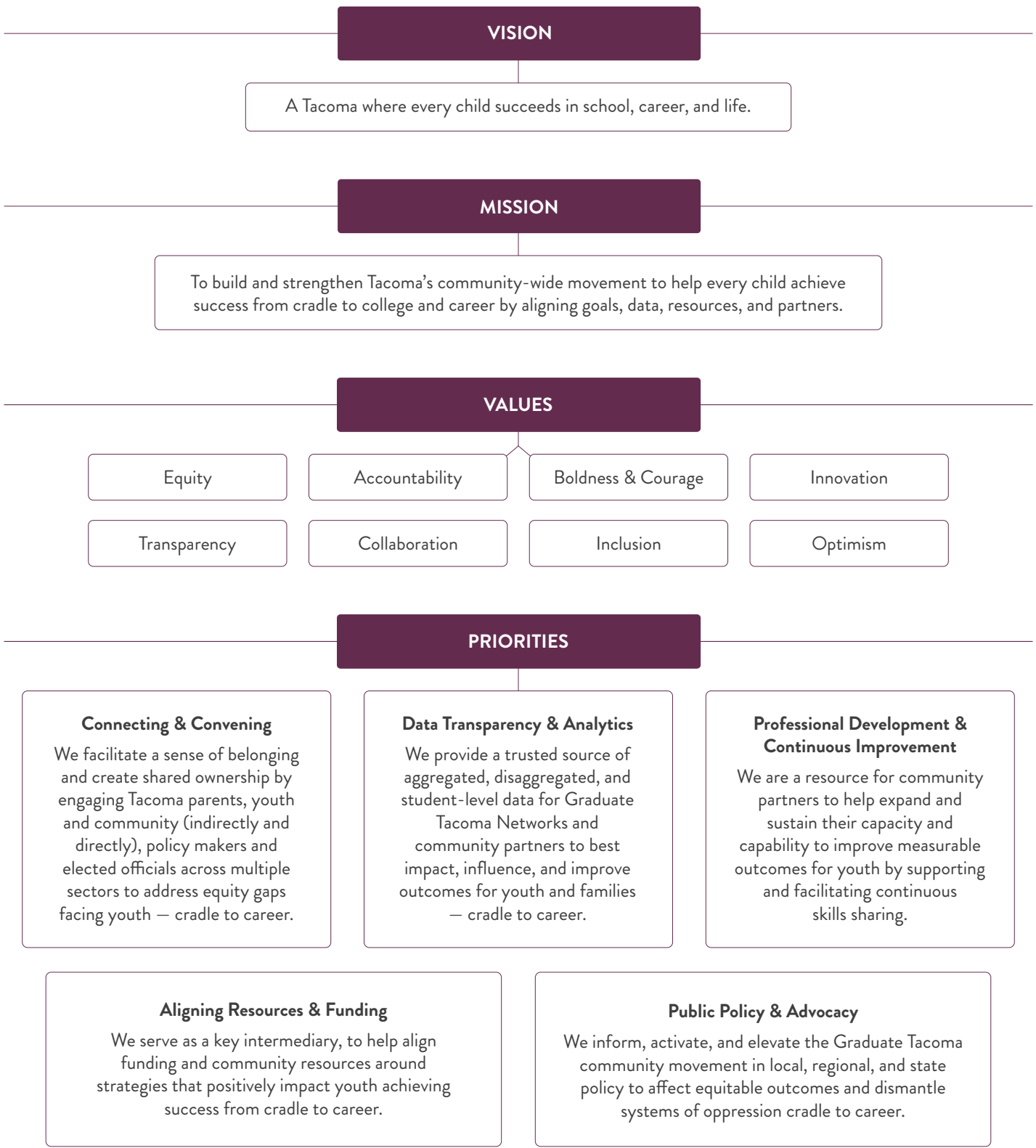
**THE GRADUATE TACOMA COMMUNITY-WIDE MOVEMENT** is the act and spirit of community members working side by side, in cooperation with each other for the greatest positive impact on youth success.

**THE FOUNDATION FOR TACOMA STUDENTS** is the backbone nonprofit and staff dedicated to ensuring the continuity, stability and growth of the Graduate Tacoma community-wide movement.

The Foundation knows that no single entity can solve any major social problem alone. The following pages share just a few examples of how we activate our five priorities for collective impact.

# CONNECTION POINT

The Foundation for Tacoma Students is the key connection point and organizer supporting the Graduate Tacoma community-wide movement. We do this by engaging all community systems that are influential to the success of Tacoma’s youngest residents — from the highest level of office to direct service providers who work with children and families on a daily basis. The Foundation’s work is centered within the following framework:



# 7,200

CONNECTIONS MADE



## CONNECTING & CONVENING

The Graduate Tacoma community-wide movement is the outcome of Tacoma residents, leaders, institutions and organizations coming together around a shared goal. We began this work as a movement of individuals by connecting and convening, and we continue to make it the cornerstone of our efforts to support the potential of every young person in our city.

In the last year alone, the Foundation hosted 60 convenings, successfully connecting students, youth program providers, educators, nonprofit professionals, philanthropists, government administrators, elected officials, parents and families, and the business community. These convenings spanned everything from a student MiniMaker Faire that elevated STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, art, math) to cross-sector partnerships resulting in formal agreements between the private sector, public sector, education, and business.

Meet Graduate Tacoma's Collaborative Action Networks: [GraduateTacoma.org/Approach](https://GraduateTacoma.org/Approach)

# 40+

DATA-SHARING AGREEMENTS



## DATA TRANSPARENCY & ANALYTICS

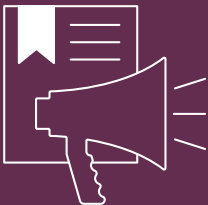
It takes a great deal of trust, negotiation and mutual benefit for institutions and organizations to enter into a data-sharing agreement. The Foundation plays the critical role of identifying complementary organizations that would benefit from sharing data, as well as both investing in and facilitating these partnerships. Likewise, the Foundation tracks, compiles, and publishes progress towards Graduate Tacoma's 17 community and student indicators.

Our most influential data partnership is with Tacoma Public Schools. By sharing their data on particular student outcomes, we are able to validate and supplement analysis that is collected at the regional and state level — further equipping youth program providers, nonprofits, philanthropists, and others to make data-informed decisions that support the success of a child inside and outside of the classroom. Adding to this, the Foundation closed 2019 with newly expanded partnerships with 38 youth-serving nonprofits. Our efforts continue to grow more sophisticated as we increase data transparency and improve data literacy among key players.

Track Our Collective Progress: [GraduateTacoma.org/Data](https://GraduateTacoma.org/Data)

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ADVOCATES



## PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

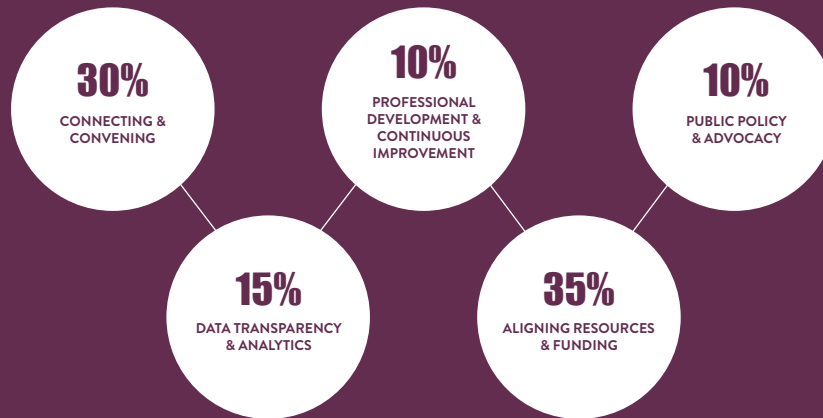
The Foundation for Tacoma Students launched its first public policy and advocacy strategy in 2019. Despite it being a year of learning, the stakes were particularly high. The recent McCleary decision came to a head with a revised school funding formula that instituted new restrictions on local voter-approved levies, leaving Tacoma Public Schools facing more than \$50M in budget cuts (2018 & 2019 combined).

With the support of Graduate Tacoma partners, the Foundation adopted a policy agenda that spanned the cradle to career continuum, elevated Tacoma's voice by connecting community leaders directly with lawmakers during the legislative session, grew a list of more than 200 advocates to take regular actions throughout the year, and established the Graduate Tacoma Advocacy Network — made up of nonprofit, higher ed and school district leaders. Five out of five of our policy priorities were successfully passed into law in 2019. This included legislation that effectively lifted the levy lid, allowing Tacoma Public Schools to collect the full voter-approved levies for their communities beginning in 2020.

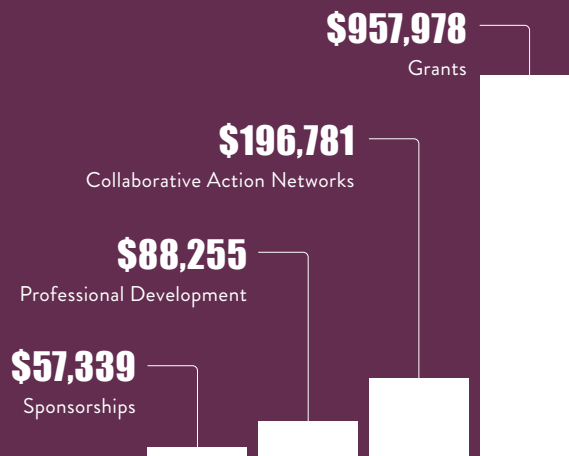
Check Out Our 2020 Policy Agenda: [GraduateTacoma.org/Advocacy](https://GraduateTacoma.org/Advocacy)

# 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## BY PRIORITY AREA



## MAJOR INVESTMENTS INTO THE GRADUATE TACOMA COMMUNITY MOVEMENT



## 2019 TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$2,921,839**

Communications	\$54,682
Professional Fees	\$117,559
Events	\$136,039
Other	\$145,565
Operations & Facilities	\$175,399
Staffing	\$1,334,617



FOUNDATION FOR  
TACOMA STUDENTS

Building and strengthening Tacoma's community-wide movement to help every child achieve success from cradle to college and career.

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