



City of Tucson Ward Five
Council Member Rocque Perez
Southside | Historic Barrios | Southeast

Date: August 10, 2025
Subject: Ward 5 FY25 Budget Surplus
To: Honorable Mayor and Council

From: Rocque Perez, Council Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rocque Perez', is written over a horizontal line.

At the close of Fiscal Year 2025, Ward 5 had an excess of \$291,851.28 from its FY25 budget.

The Trump administration's cancellation of federal contracts and congressional actions at his request codified attacks on our most vulnerable populations. In Tucson, these actions have deepened long-standing inequities, particularly in schools and nonprofits serving the south side, southeast, and historic barrios. These realities underscore the urgent need to strengthen educational opportunities, stabilize families, expand access to culturally competent information, improve community spaces, and support direct services for residents.

In alignment with my commitment to address these immediate needs while building long-term community capacity, I respectfully request that this surplus be allocated from the City Manager's FY26 Contingency Fund as follows:

- The Sunnyside Foundation serves as a hub for learning and family support. I request \$42,400 to fund a Financial Participation Agreement with the Sunnyside Foundation: \$18,000 for excellence in education programs, \$10,000 for emergency relief, \$10,000 for community investment, and \$4,400 for administrative.
- The Education Enrichment Foundation provides resources to support student learning in the Tucson Unified School District. I request \$35,000 to fund a Financial Participation Agreement with the Education Enrichment Foundation for a \$15,000 sponsorship of the Ray Davies Luncheon and \$20,000 to Pueblo High School, split between general facility improvements and student program facilities and supply needs.
- United Hearts of Arizona improves the lives of children and families in Arizona by providing resources that help them in their personal and professional lives. I request \$20,000 to fund a Financial Participation Agreement with United Hearts of Arizona for the purchase of school supplies, clothing, and personal items for distribution to students at events in partnership with the Ward 5 Office, including a Shoe and Jacket Drive in November 2025, the Back-to-School Backpack Bash, and other year-round programs.

- The Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC) serves young people through programs that promote post-secondary access and civic participation. Under City Resolution No. 1990-178—reaffirmed by Resolution No. 2024-38—the City committed to funding the MEC at a level equal to Pima County’s. With the County allocating \$122,000 annually and the City’s contribution at only \$19,750, I request \$66,000 be held to increase the City’s FY26 contribution, narrowing the gap to sustain the MEC’s programming and advance its establishment of the Southern Arizona College Resource Center in Ward 5.
- Second Sky is a community hub that fosters meaningful connections and shared experiences through its event space, playground, digital immersion programs, and STEAM center serving after-school and micro-school students. I request \$9,000 to fund a Financial Participation Agreement with Second Sky to support advertising, equipment, and program needs.
- Tucson Spotlight highlights under-covered topics and communities, while amplifying the voices of new, emerging, and diverse journalists. I request \$10,000 to fund a Financial Participation Agreement with Tucson Spotlight, specifically to support its Spanish-language publication, El Foco de Tucson, along with any applicable organizing to address the disparity in Spanish-language news following the closure of La Estrella de Tucson, the city’s only Spanish-language newspaper.
- Barrio Restoration beautifies neglected spaces in Southside Tucson through landscaping and organizing of neighbors to take ownership of their barrio and clean their community. I request \$10,000 to fund a Financial Participation Agreement with Barrio Restoration to extend its services beyond South Tucson and partner with Ward 5 staff on clean-up and youth programs.
- I request \$99,451.28 be held for internally led projects and programs:
 - a) \$28,000 for a collaborative pilot project to operate a low-barrier, safe transitional space that connects vulnerable unhoused individuals with services and long-term housing.
 - b) \$15,000 for Parks and Recreation to further sustain its partnership with Mobile Meals for senior citizens at the Quincie Douglas Center in Ward 5.
 - c) \$6,451.28 for Parks and Recreation to support year-round programming for youth, seniors, and their families at the Santa Rosa Recreation Center in Ward 5.
 - d) \$25,000 for Community Safety, Health & Wellness to support infrastructure and supply needs specific to their services in Ward 5.
 - e) \$25,000 to address tree placement, shading, cement condition, irrigation, paint, and other necessary improvements to the enclosed courtyard, central lobby, and surrounding areas of the Ward 5 Office at 4300 S Park Ave, Tucson, AZ 85714.

Please schedule this request for inclusion on the August 19, 2025, Regular Session Consent Agenda for Mayor and Council consideration and approval.

CC: City Manager, Timothy Thomure, and City Clerk, Suzanne Mesich