

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council - Commissioner's Court Meeting	<b>Item ID</b>	34285	<b>Agenda Number</b>	26.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	8/7/2014	<b>Department:</b>	Economic Development
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**Subject**

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$256,500 in grant funds from ArtPlace America, approve ratifying execution of all grant documents, and amending the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Economic Development Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance 20130909-001) to appropriate \$256,500 to assist council district residents in identifying their community's cultural assets and to assist artists to create artistic expressions of the district's character and diversity. Related to Item # 27.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$256,500 is available from ArtPlace America.

**Fiscal Note**

A fiscal note is attached.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	
<b>For More Information:</b>	Kevin Johns, Director, (512)974-7802, Economic Development; Megan Crigger, Cultural Arts Administrator, Economic Development, (512)974-9312
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

**Additional Backup Information**

The project is a public-private partnership between the Cultural Arts Division and GO Collaborative with Public City, Fistera Studio, and Austin Creative Alliance. The project seeks to harness the power of arts and artists to directly engage the political transformations taking place in Austin as a result of the 10 newly-drawn council districts. The project will assist district residents in identifying their community's cultural assets and assist artists that will create artistic expressions of the district's character and diversity. The 10 artists (one per district) will then collaborate on a single artwork that expresses the collective understanding of Austin's diverse communities. The community engagement process is expected to last up to 12 months, culminating in a public exhibition with project maps, single-district artworks, one collaborative artwork, and City of Austin GIS-based cultural asset maps.

The project expands upon the Cultural Arts Division's current initiative to map Austin's cultural assets, a project funded through the National Endowment for the Arts. The process will produce a set of GIS maps organized by council district, a findings report developed with community input, and a set of cultural economic development strategies for each district. Aligning with Imagine Austin, the Land Development Code Revision, and the City's CIP

Strategic Plan, the goal of this project is to better integrate creative economy strategies into City planning areas and initiatives.

The City was awarded the grant on June 6, 2014 and was required to return the executed grant documents on June 11, 2014, not allowing time for Council approval prior to execution. Therefore, staff is also requesting ratification of the execution of the grant documents accepting the funds.