

RESOLUTION NO. 20141211-126

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is proud of its rich musical heritage and seeks to recognize those who contributed to the culture of the city and to the music world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has initiated various efforts to permanently recognize individuals that were instrumental in creating Austin's vibrant musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, the pioneering musicologist and folklorist, Alan Lomax, was born in Austin on January 31st, 1915, studied at the University of Texas at Austin and spent over six decades working to record and promote knowledge and awareness of the world's folk music; and

WHEREAS, by capturing thousands of field recordings of folk music throughout the Southern United States in the early days of recording technology for such institutions as the Library of Congress, he was able to preserve important and authentic expressions of American music that may have been lost to history; and

WHEREAS, Lomax's recordings and studies included important discoveries in blues, jazz, and gospel music that helped promote the careers of such artists as Lead Belly and Jelly Roll Morton, and were also influential on folk figures such as Woody Guthrie, Pete Seger, and Bob Dylan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to making recordings around the world, Lomax collaborated with Carl Sagan on the selection of music to be included on the 1977 Voyager Space Probe to ensure that music representative of all world cultures was included; and

WHEREAS, Alan Lomax was awarded the National Medal of the Arts in 1984, a Library of Congress Living legend Award in 2000 and then, shortly after passing away in 2002, he was awarded a Grammy Trustee's Award for lifetime achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Association for Cultural Equity (ACE) is a charitable organization founded during Lomax's lifetime to explore and preserve the world's expressive traditions with humanistic commitment and scientific engagement and to reconnect people and communities with their creative heritage; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the work of digitizing, archiving, and disseminating Lomax's recordings, ACE has pioneered the repatriation of cultural documentation to the communities that created it; and

WHEREAS, ACE joins with libraries and cultural organizations to return the compelling music, photographs, film, video, interviews, and research from the Alan Lomax Archive, reaching out to local and diaspora communities to arrange formal repatriation of the media that their predecessors created; and

WHEREAS, past repatriations have included integration into school curricula, museum collections, and radio programming, as well as implementing cultural feedback strategies; and

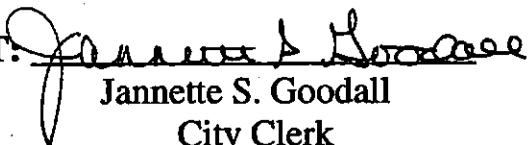
WHEREAS, Alan Lomax's Texas recordings have not yet been repatriated and Austin could be a possible location as the Capital of Texas, the place of Lomax's birth and home to the archive of his father, John Avery Lomax, at the University of Texas' Dolph Briscoe Center for American History; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to collaborate with the Association for Cultural Equity on a repatriation of Texas sound archives and work with the Music Commission on an appropriate recognition of Austin-born folklorist and musicologist, Alan Lomax.

ADOPTED: December 11, 2014

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk