

# AGENDA



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	51942	Agenda Number	40.
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Meeting Date:	11/19/2015	Department:	Parks and Recreation
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### Subject

Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$23,500 in grant funds, and amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20150908-001) and the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Austin Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20150908-002) to transfer in and appropriate these grant funds for the restoration of the 1939 Violet Crown Garden Club Wall.

### Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available from the Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau in the amount of \$23,500. A City match is not required.

### Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Marty Stump (512) 974-9460; Angela Means (512) 974-6712
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

### Additional Backup Information

The Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau awards grants for historic restoration that is at or near the vicinity of the Convention Center or in an area likely to be visited by tourists. This grant is intended to help restore the Elisabet Ney Museum's historic 1939 Violet Crown Garden Club wall along the south perimeter (44th Street) of the Ney Museum property. For seventy-six years, this wall has created an ornamental break between the bustling, historic Hyde Park neighborhood and the evocative, castle-dominated parkland behind it. The wall also now protects the site's carefully-curated Native Prairie Restoration with its robust display of wildflowers, birds, and butterflies. Though the landscape and the museum have been restored, this 250' limestone wall has not, bearing scars of damage from tree roots, vandalism, and the natural movement of the soil beneath. The wall suffers from significant shifting at the marked gate. It also leans towards the museum at an angle of as much as 15% in portions, and shows breaks, cracks, discoloration and other inconsistencies throughout. The wall's stability is an increasing safety issue. To remedy this situation, careful removal and washing of each stone, the pouring of a new foundation, and the reconstruction of the wall is now needed.

Since the rest of the site continues to undergo considerable work as outlined in a 2007 Master Plan and the 2012 bond election information brochure, the fact that the wall has not benefited from any form of rehabilitative treatment is that much more obvious. It is also an increased safety risk. Furthermore, as the site's popularity increases (2014-15 attendance will be over 21,000), the unfortunate state of the wall is increasingly apparent. Finally, Council action from February 27, 2014 dictates that the wall's continued tenure on the site is guaranteed; as a dilapidating historic asset it must be maintained with dignity and care. The historic restoration construction will be bid out through normal City of Austin methods.

This request for Council action seeks Council approval to accept and appropriate the grant funding from the Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Parks and Recreation Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.