



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: 20160622-004-a20: Discussion and possible action to recommend that the City Council consider the following resolutions.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission requests that the Austin City Council:

Support the Mexican American Museum of Popular Arts for \$250,000. The Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Advisory Commission recommends that the City of Austin create a memorandum of understanding with the Travis County Commissioners Court including a City of Austin feasibility study as a first-step in incorporating the Palm Building and 4 acre urban park as part of the revitalized Waller Creek Conservancy district park, with the Palm Building to be used as a Museum of Mexican American Heritage, Folk Art, and Indigenous Culture. The proposal is encouraged in particular by the commitment of the Austin Friends of Folk Art (particularly its current President, Ms. Gloria Pennington) and the Indigenous Cultures Institute (especially its current chair, Dr. Mario Garza) to provide valuable materials in their collections, as well as guidance in its development. The Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Advisory Commission agrees that Austin is located at an important geographical crossroad of ancient cultures that span the continent and the state of Texas and that communities of folk artists continue to express this important continental heritage. Exhibits, scholarly convenings and community educational activities in a museum setting could serve as a source of cultural revitalization for the Mexican American and Latino communities, as well as for the public at large, including the increasing numbers of visitors that we expect in the Waller Creek area, the Rainey Street entertainment district, and the current Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESBMACC). The Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Advisory Commission, however, understands that such a venture minimally requires the collaboration of the City of Austin and the Travis County Commissioners Court on the basis of an understanding of cooperation as a first step towards converting Palm School into a Museum of Mexican American Heritage, Folk Art and Indigenous Culture. The proposed feasibility study is necessary to move forward on this idea.

Date of Approval: 06/22/2016

Record of the vote: The motion was proposed by Commissioner Lopez-Aguilar, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina, and was approved unanimously.

Attest:  (Staff or board member can sign)