

**RESOLUTION NO. 20190619-086**

**WHEREAS**, cultural centers are beacons of the community that promote culture, art and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, cultural centers provide a variety of affordable and accessible cultural arts activities and resources for all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin should promote the coordination and partnerships between the City of Austin and private and non-profit organizations in order to provide more affordable cultural and recreational events and programming at cultural centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has three cultural centers including the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center and the Asian American Resource Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the George Washington Carver Museum shares their current site with the Carver Branch Public Library, which provides additional resources for the community; and

**WHEREAS**, other centers operated by non-profits or third party entities that provide art and cultural experiences or youth programming, and are funded by City dollars and/or City land, are: the Mexic-Arte Museum and the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex; and

**WHEREAS**, City of Austin residents have in the past approved millions in bond dollars for renovations and improvements of these; and

**WHEREAS**, most recently the City of Austin residents voted to approve Proposition B: Libraries, Museums & Cultural Arts Facilities through the 2018 bond

process that allocated \$56.5 million dollars for renovations and improvements at these facilities as well as \$25 million dollars for the Dougherty Arts Center Replacement Facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has not conducted a systemic review of the City of Austin's cultural centers operations and programming in the past to ensure they meet the needs of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, audits can serve as a tool to help ensure program effectiveness and protect taxpayer investments in community resources; and

**WHEREAS**, an audit could identify unmet needs to help inform future investments in programs and services; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Auditor is directed to amend the City Auditor's 2019 Audit Plan to include an audit of the City of Austin Cultural Centers: Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center and the Asian American Resource Center, the Carver Branch Public Library, the Mexic-Arte Museum and the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. The audit's objective should seek answers to questions such as:

1. Are the cultural centers performing and serving the community effectively?
2. How often and how many community requests to use the spaces in each facility are received and are granted?
3. What is the current and projected available space, type of space, and program areas to be used by community members at each facility?

4. What is the number, type, and percentage utilization of rental space and current attendance at each facility?
5. Are rental spaces affordable and accessible to the public? If there are barriers to access to these rental spaces, what are the barriers?
6. Is the community satisfied with the services provided and do these services and facilities currently meet community needs?
7. Do these facilities provide programming that is culturally appropriate and oriented to the community it serves?
8. Does the facility engage in and help foster multi-cultural enrichment and experiences with other cultural centers and their communities?
9. Does the facility provide access to affordable spaces for individuals and organizations to create multi-cultural opportunities for the community?
10. Are staffing levels adequate in order to provide a comprehensive service at the cultural center facilities?
11. Are staffing salaries and benefits package at each center competitive compared to other facilities?
12. Has the City taken appropriate steps to ensure that the staff available at these facilities are culturally sensitive to the community the facility serves?
13. Are there performance measures in place to ensure productive management of these assets including reviews of leadership and staff?
14. Are current fee schedules and revenue and expenses appropriate to the operations of each facility?
15. Are there national best practices in governance, operation, and programming of cultural centers that the City of Austin should consider as it manages and expands its cultural assets?

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Auditor is further directed to present a final report at the first Council meeting in January 2020.

**ADOPTED:** June 19, 2019

**ATTEST:** 

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk