

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE WAIVING OR REIMBURSING CERTAIN FEES FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL AUSTIN VETERANS ART FESTIVAL AS A MEANS TOWARD THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS, AND TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY.**

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

**PART 1.** On June 15, 2019, the Commission on Veteran Affairs approved a resolution regarding the first annual Austin Veterans Art Festival (AVAFEST), scheduled to run October through November of 2019.

**PART 2.** The Commission had previously received a presentation from AVAFEST organizers, who are seeking assistance and support from the City of Austin for the art festival, which is specifically aimed to prevent veteran suicide in Austin. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has issued 2016 data that shows the veteran suicide rate in Texas to be “significantly higher” than the national suicide rate, with the number of veteran suicides in Texas in 2016 totaling 530. AVAFEST’s mission is to create outlets for artistic expression that have the potential to be therapeutic within the veteran community, as well as within veteran’s families, and all of Austin’s communities.

**PART 3.** Both the Economic Development Department and Parks and Recreation Department are working with AVAFEST to help ensure a successful inaugural event, which will take place on different dates at the Dougherty Art Center, the Emma Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, and the George Washington Carver Cultural Center, for a total rent fee of \$14,251. AVAFEST is collaborating with an existing renter at the ESB-MACC and no rental fees will be required of AVAFEST.

**PART 4.** The Council waives up to \$14,251 to cover the cost of \$6,888 for rental space at the Dougherty Art Center and \$7,363 for the George Washington Carver Cultural Center.

**PART 5.** The City Manager is directed to continue working with AVAFEST organizers on the 2019 inaugural event; to assist in event planning to ensure space is appropriately right-sized for success with the inaugural event; to assist in post-event evaluation to measure success and make recommendations for future space needs based on usage and attendance metrics; and to assist in publicizing the festival through the Communications and Public Information Office.

**PART 6.** This ordinance takes effect on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2019      § \_\_\_\_\_  
   § \_\_\_\_\_  
   § \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Adler  
Mayor

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Anne L. Morgan      Jannette S. Goodall  
City Attorney      City Clerk