



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3610, **Agenda Item #:** 98.

11/14/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Matthew Kwatinetz D/B/A QBL Partners LLC, to provide consulting services for the creation of an economic development entity to promote affordable housing development, creative space developments, public-private partnerships, and supporting structures, in an amount not to exceed \$165,000.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Economic Development Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Economic Development Department.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Services.

Prior Council Action:

Resolution 20141211-122 - directed City Manager to deliver a feasibility study and timeline for creating an economic development corporation or similar entity to manage economic development projects;

Resolution 20170216-040 - directed City Manager to propose an economic development corporation or similar entity to support the development of affordable housing, redevelopment, revitalization and other projects;

Resolution 20180215-082 - directed City Manager to propose steps for collaborating with and supporting Austin Cultural Trust to create spaces to support artists and arts organizations, preserve historic and iconic cultural buildings and spaces for creative and cultural uses and function in a way that provides for cultural assets to exist in all parts of the City;

Resolution 20190808-072 - directed City Manager to initiate the necessary processes to authorize the creation of an economic development entity, identify potential funding sources, solicit stakeholder feedback and, if

necessary, contract with subject matter experts to develop an implementation plan.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Brenita Selement, at 512-974-3164 or brenita.selement@austintexas.gov <<mailto:brenita.selement@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

This contract is for consulting services related to creating an independent entity that can structure public-private partnerships to help the City accomplish its holistic goals related to economic development. With the assistance of the consultant, City staff will recommend to Council the structure of the entity that should best serve the Council's goals, with a proposal for execution of an operational plan.

Through the above-identified resolutions, the City Council has directed the City Manager to recommend the creation of an economic development entity with the capacity to "create or support [the] development of creative spaces, affordable housing, redevelopment, revitalization and other priority projects and goals of the City."

Staff seek approval of this contract to efficiently and properly identify the type of entity that can best satisfy the Council's goals. If the contract is not approved, the project timeline requested by Council will be delayed and will further result in the loss of funding options for the contract, as well as the entity requested by Council. Additionally, the scope of the contract would have to be expanded and the timeline would have to be lengthened if this vendor were not selected and able to build upon past work with the City.