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3 **WHEREAS,** the Economic Development Department's (EDD) June 2016
4 Response to the Music and Creative Ecosystem Omnibus Resolution (Resolution No.
5 20160303-019) identified affordable space for artists and musicians as a priority concern
6 area; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City’s Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP) is to support
8 creative organizations facing temporary or permanent displacement, were previously
9 displaced, or facing lease renewals at substantially higher rates; and

0 **WHEREAS**, while priority for CSAP assistance is given to organizations
1 confronting immediate and critical needs, there are several barriers that appear to make
2 artists facing difficulty paying rent due to COVID-19 ineligible for these funds; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the current CSAP application requirement that only 501(c)(3)
4 organizations can apply will exclude collectives of artists, as well as individual artists who
5 rent or lease space for their work, and the time it takes to get 501(c)(3) status typically
6 takes 6 months or longer; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the current CSAP application requirement of a “substantial” rent
8 increase will also exclude many artists facing COVID-19 reduction in income, dramatic
9 in some cases, who cannot pay their current rent; and

00 **WHEREAS**, the CSAP requires a 3-year minimum lease term, which presents a
01 barrier to vulnerable artists who may have a month-to-month or shorter-term lease; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin intends to provide the maximum benefit of relief to as many vulnerable artists impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis as possible;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to immediately use the Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP) for an Austin Artist Disaster Relief Fund to provide emergency grants available to vulnerable local artists with eligibility to include assistance with rental costs.

ADOPTED: _____, 2020

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk