RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution No**.** 20131017-036 designated the 600 to 900 blocks of Red River Street as the Red River Cultural District, and directed the City Manager to investigate the process for a state designation as well; and

WHEREAS, located in the southeast quadrant of Downtown, the Red River Cultural District includes, or is adjacent to, significant economic and historical assets such as the Dell Medical School and teaching hospital, the Waterloo Greenway, Historic E. 6th Street, and the Palm District; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2016, Council approved the Music and Creative Ecosystem Omnibus Resolution which affirmed support for the music and creative ecosystem through short- and long-term goals specific to cultural tourism, revenue development, and venue retention; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018 Council directed the City Manager to recommend potential short- and long-term design solutions for the physical landscape of the Red River Cultural District to increase pedestrian mobility and safety, and to support place-making efforts; and

WHEREAS, Council passed Resolution No. 20190808-144 to reaffirm its direction to complete the streetscape and place-making work in the Red River Cultural District; and

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WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Department committed more than $1.3 million of Great Streets funding for Red River Cultural District streetscape improvements for Fiscal Year 2020, with Economic Development managing that project; and

WHEREAS, in May 2019 Council approved Resolution No. 20190523-029 to create the Palm District Master Plan, which includes the Red River Cultural District as a prominent component; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20180215-082 directed the City Manager to, among other things, analyze and provide next steps for collaboration and support of an "Austin Cultural Trust" that could create spaces that 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; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20190808-072 reiterated prior Council direction to create an economic development entity that could manage a portfolio of projects including affordable housing developments, public-private partnerships with private-led development such as along the South Central Waterfront, and a Cultural Trust to support acquisition and preservation of creative space; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Department contracted with a consultant to provide recommendations to Council on the options for structuring

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such an entity, and the timely creation of such an entity could leverage opportunities during this time to stabilize and retain creative space in addition to accessing funds available to such entities from the Economic Development Administration; and

WHEREAS, the recent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy and specifically to small businesses such as live music venues, restaurants, and bars may result in permanent closures of iconic venues if support is not provided to these industries; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to evaluate the following strategies, and if feasible, to implement immediately:

- Removal or downward adjustment of Parking and ROW (tour bus parking) in the Red River Cultural District to assist in market recovery and reopening;
- Removal or downward adjustment of fees associated with patio cafes; and Expedited permitting processes and fee adjustments associated with upgrading structures to be compliant with any new safety protocols associated with safe reopening.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In addition, the City Manager shall explore Transfer of Development Rights (TDRS), land banking, and acquisition strategies for stabilizing assets in the Red River Cultural District and shall provide options to City Council as soon as

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possible. Such options shall include identification of strategies, timing, and funding sources, but shall not include 2018 creative space bonds, other than through the existing solicitation process open to all entities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore the appropriateness of creating a subcategory of funding from the CARES act designated by Resolution No. 20200423-023 for the Commercial Loans for Economic Assistance & Recovery Economic injury loans, grants, and technical assistance for local and small businesses specifically for music venues given the difficulty these face in accessing resources available to other small businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to consult with the Live Music Fund Working Group and the Music Commission to request feedback regarding using the Live Music Fund for re-employment/payroll assistance for 68 venues during safe re-opening and to evaluate other investments that would help restore and enhance the live music and cultural tourism economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to expedite for Council review recommendations regarding the creation of an economic development entity, including providing documents necessary for the creation of the entity no later

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than June 11th and recommending ways such an entity could leverage opportunities to advance community benefits during this pandemic and during recovery, including but not limited to the retention, stabilization, or acquisition of creative space for a cultural trust.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Adoption of this resolution serves as an endorsement by the City Council for the Red River Cultural District State Cultural District designation application.

ADOPTED: _____, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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