



21           **WHEREAS**, the Planning and Zoning Department committed more than  
22 \$1.3 million of Great Streets funding for Red River Cultural District streetscape  
23 improvements for Fiscal Year 2020, with Economic Development managing that  
24 project; and

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

28           **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20180215-082 directed the City Manager to,  
29 among other things, analyze and provide next steps for collaboration and support  
30 of an “Austin Cultural Trust” that could create spaces that support artists and arts  
31 organizations, preserve historic and iconic cultural buildings and spaces for  
32 creative and cultural uses, and function in a way that provides for cultural assets to  
33 exist in all parts of the City; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

52 <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Removal or downward adjustment of Parking and ROW (tour bus parking)

53 in the Red River Cultural District to assist in market recovery and reopening;

54 <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Removal or downward adjustment of fees associated with patio cafes; and

55 <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Expedited permitting processes and fee adjustments associated with

56 upgrading structures to be compliant with any new safety protocols

57 associated with safe reopening.

58

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

60 In addition, the City Manager shall explore Transfer of Development Rights  
61 (TDRS), land banking, and acquisition strategies for stabilizing assets in the Red  
62 River Cultural District and shall provide options to City Council as soon as  
63 possible. Such options shall include identification of strategies, timing, and  
64 funding sources, but shall not include 2016 bond funds.

65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

66 The City Manager is directed to consult with the Music Commission to  
67 explore 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  
69 restore and enhance the live music and cultural tourism economy.

70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

71 The City Manager is directed to expedite for Council review  
72 recommendations regarding the creation of an economic development entity,  
73 including providing documents necessary for the creation of the entity no later  
74 than June 11<sup>th</sup> and recommending ways such an entity could leverage opportunities  
75 to advance community benefits during this pandemic and during recovery,  
76 including but not limited to the retention, stabilization, or acquisition of creative  
77 space for a cultural trust.

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79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

82

83 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk

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