

RESOLUTION NO. 20200917-014

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 20170831-060 directed the City Manager to allocate 15% of the seven-cent portion of the City's Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to support operations and maintenance of City of Austin historic facilities and sites in accordance with Texas Tax Code Section 351.101(a)(5); and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 20181004-033 directed the City Manager to allocate the Historic Preservation Fund Fiscal Year 2019 budget in the following manner:

- 70% for City of Austin historic facilities and sites in accordance with Texas Tax Code Section 351.101(a)(5);
- 15% reserved for potential future historic acquisitions or major preservation projects that would be frequented by tourists and convention delegates; and
- 15% for the Heritage Grant Program

The Resolution also directed the City Manager to:

- expand the eligible applicants for heritage grants per the recommendations of the Visitor Impact Task Force and the Heritage Grant Working Group;
 - expand eligible projects for Heritage Grants to include capital projects and planning, educational, and marketing projects; and
 - increase the \$59,000 cap on individual Heritage Grant awards to \$250,000 with staff discretion to recommend to Council grant requests above this threshold;
- and

WHEREAS, City staff use City Council Resolution No. 20181004-033 as a guide for how to apportion funds in future fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, Texas Tax Code Section 351.101(a)(5) authorizes hotel occupancy tax revenue to be used for historic restoration and preservation projects or activities or advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to encourage tourists and convention delegates to visit preserved historic sites or museums:

- at or in the immediate vicinity of the convention center facilities or visitor information centers; or
- located elsewhere in the municipality or its vicinity that would be frequented by tourists and convention delegates; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$16,079,216 is available in FY 2020-2021 to the Economic Development Department for eligible historic restoration and preservation projects and activities; and

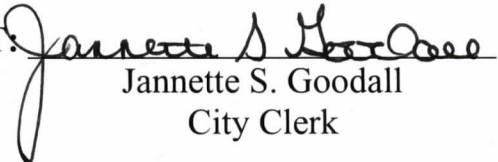
WHEREAS, for nearly two decades, a portion of the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau (now Visit Austin) budget has been allocated to fund and administer the Heritage Grant Program, and Visit Austin ceased administration of the program at the end of 2018; and

WHEREAS, an interdepartmental working group evaluated proposals for project funding for City of Austin facilities and sites and prioritized investments, using the guidance of City Council Resolution 20181004-033; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is authorized to award, negotiate, and execute historic preservation fund service contracts for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$16,079,216 for historic preservation and restoration projects, as recommended by staff.

ADOPTED: September 17, 2020

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk