

RESOLUTION NO. 20220609-123

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 000601-063 directed the City Manager to develop strategies for protecting the historic character of the Rainey Street Historic District and for rehabilitating and relocating the homes; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 040212-035 directed the City Manager to analyze the infrastructure within the Rainey Street area and requested that various boards and commissions recommend ways to support mixed income redevelopment while preserving the historic integrity of the area; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20130509-035 directed the City Manager to explore using right-of-way fees from development within the Rainey Street Subdistrict and its immediate surroundings to create a Rainey Street History Center, relocate the Rainey Street buildings, and to celebrate the cultural heritage of the Rainey District; and,

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20131024-010 created the Rainey Street District Fund to rehabilitate single family structures moved from Rainey Street and to preserve and maintain the history of the predominantly Hispanic neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20131024-010 appropriated \$600,000 from right-of-way fees, alley vacation sales, and license agreements from the Rainey Street Historic District and Subdistrict and used it toward house relocation costs; and

WHEREAS, during its deliberations, the City Council expressed a clear intent to create a perpetual fund for ongoing improvements within the District; and

WHEREAS, staff did not continue funding the Rainey Street District Fund, and the improvements envisioned to preserve the history of the district were never realized; and

WHEREAS, the Palm District Resolution (No. 20190523-029) reaffirmed the earlier Council intent and directed the City Manager to return to the City Council by June 20, 2019, with an ordinance requiring funds from right-of-way fees, alley vacation sales, and license agreements for developments within the Rainey Street Historic District to be deposited into the Rainey Street District Special Revenue Fund; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 20191114-050 created the Rainey Street District Special Revenue Fund, but a Council majority limited the annual appropriation of this fund at \$200,000; and

WHEREAS, this fund is reserved for projects that enhance placemaking, promote cultural vibrancy, and celebrate the Mexican American identity, heritage, and history of the Rainey Street Historic District in a manner that engages a citywide audience; and

WHEREAS, in October 2019, the City Council District 9 office and Council colleagues held a placemaking charette with Rainey residents and members of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Board, the Rainey Business Association, and other community groups to brainstorm ideas for using the Rainey Street District Special Revenue Fund; and

WHEREAS, community stakeholders emphasized that the placemaking/placekeeping features along Rainey Street should be human-centered – that they should be focused on honoring and telling the stories of the

Mexican American families who once lived there and built a thriving neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, community stakeholders urged that 64 Rainey Street be used as a visitor's center to the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center and include statuary, historical markers or plaques, and/or murals representing the historic Mexican American culture of the neighborhood as well as greenery; and

WHEREAS, these placekeeping elements should weave together stories, ethnographies, and photographs – many of which have been used in earlier exhibits, documentaries, and initiatives such as “Our Austin Story”; and

WHEREAS, the following key projects emerged from the process:

- Historic markers;
- Family stories narrated through sidewalk panels;
- Metal *papel picado* artwork that could be affixed to lampposts;
- Mural(s) on the AE substation wall recreating some of Raul Valdez's murals destroyed with the demolition of the Juarez Lincoln building;
- Art and storytelling elements in the 64 Rainey Street park space; and
- A grand entrance for the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.

WHEREAS, the pandemic prevented the community and City staff from executing those ideas and appropriating money during previous budget deliberations due to COVID, and the Rainey Street District Special Revenue Fund has continued to grow; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to include in the draft budget for Council consideration and Council approval during budget adoption appropriation of current funds in the Rainey Street District Special Revenue Fund in an amount of up to \$500,000 in the 2022-23 City budget to fund placemaking and placekeeping projects in the Rainey Historic District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return with an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20191114-050 to authorize Council to appropriate an amount in excess of \$200,000 from the Rainey Street District Special Revenue Fund if there are sufficient funds for this increased appropriation.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall collaborate with the Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board to conduct an additional public meeting by October 1, 2022, to receive feedback and to refine the project list generated through the earlier community process. In preparation for this meeting, the City Manager shall use readily accessible City resources to create visual representations to aid community members in reviewing options inspired by the above project list.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Should Council appropriate the funding for this project in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget, the City Manager shall present Council with a summary of the

community feedback, a timeline for the projects, and estimated costs by October 15, 2022. Council expects the projects to be underway immediately following the public meeting.

ADOPTED: June 9, 2022 **ATTEST:** 
Myrna Rios
City Clerk