HARPER-MADISON BUDGET IFC NO.2: Equity-Based Historic Preservation Plan

WHEREAS the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission was established in 1974 to promote historic preservation activities in Austin and advise the Austin City Council on matters related to historic preservation; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the Historic Landmark Commission is to prepare and periodically revise an inventory of the structures and areas that may be eligible for designation as historic landmarks, most recently completed in 1984; prepare, review, and propose amendments to a citywide Historic Preservation Plan, last adopted in 1981; and review requests to establish or remove a historic designation and make recommendations on the requests to the Land Use Commission; and

WHEREAS the Historic Landmark Commission created a 26-member community working group, the Preservation Plan Working Group, on June 28, 2021, to develop a draft of an equity-based historic preservation plan between July 2021 and June 2022 (phase 1 of the planning process); and

WHEREAS the Preservation Plan Working Group has been working diligently to complete the draft plan during monthly meetings, drawing on research from national best practices, employing an equity evaluation framework, and incorporating feedback from a community heritage survey, focus groups, a Technical Advisory Group of City staff, and the Preservation Plan Committee of the Historic Landmark Commission; and

WHEREAS phase 2 of the planning process will include extensive community engagement around the draft preservation plan, with community members, organizational and institutional stakeholders, board and commission members, and others invited to learn about the topics, prioritize recommendations, identify gaps, identify potential partners for implementation, and estimate costs for priority recommendations before the plan is presented to City Council for adoption; and

WHEREAS broad, inclusive community participation will be essential to ensure that the equity-based preservation plan reflects the full range of Austin's past and continuing heritage, is grounded in public values and priorities, and includes a range of activities and opportunities for engagement; and

WHEREAS community engagement should meaningfully prioritize communities and groups that have been historically underrepresented in public decision-making and historic preservation activities, such as communities of color, low-income households, renters, and LGBTQIA+ people; and

WHEREAS on March 28, 2022 the Historic Landmark Commission unanimously passed Recommendation 20220328-4B; and

WHEREAS funds to support implementing Phase 2 of the Equity-Based Historic Preservation Plan was submitted as an unmet need by the Housing & Planning Department and is not included in the proposed budget put forth by the City Manager.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council allocates $160,000 in one-time funds to the Housing & Planning Department for FY2022-23 for a community engagement consultant, compensation for 12 community ambassadors and working group members, and marketing to reach a broad audience in order to implement Phase 2 of the Equity-Based Historic Preservation Plan.