

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, the Imagine Austin plan states that creativity is a cornerstone  
3 of Austin’s identity and economic prosperity, and that arts, culture, and creativity  
4 are essential keys to the City’s unique and distinctive identity, and further are  
5 valued as vital contributors to our community’s character, quality of life and  
6 economy, and collectively, the Austin Music and creative ecosystem generates  
7 rich, social, cultural, and economic benefits; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20201203-046 created the Iconic Venue Fund  
9 to preserve and protect iconic music venues that have defined the landscape of  
10 Austin as the Live Music Capital of the World. Mentioned in the resolution was:  
11 Historic Scoot Inn, Victory Grill, The Broken Spoke, Continental Club, Hole in the  
12 Wall, Antone’s, Stubb’s, The Little Longhorn Saloon, Threadgill’s, Donn’s Depot,  
13 Saxon Pub, Elephant Room, Mohawk, The White Horse Honky Tonk, Joe’s  
14 Bakery and Coffee Shop, Sam’s BBQ, and Cisco’s; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20200521-095 acknowledged multiple steps  
16 taken by councils through time recognizing the essential nature and need to protect,  
17 preserve, and cultivate creative spaces with long-term and short-term relief as well  
18 as through creation of an economic development corporation (EDC), review of city  
19 owned assets and regional partnering, as well as bond funding mechanisms; and

20 **WHEREAS**, many of Austin’s creative spaces continue to be lost or  
21 displaced due to Austin’s continuing real estate boom, resulting in the loss of some  
22 of Austin’s most significant creative cultural incubators and unique Austin  
23 character; and

24 **WHEREAS**, since its founding on November 11, 1964, by James White,  
25 The Broken Spoke has entertained legions of Austinites and visitors from around

26 the globe, and helped shape the music career of many distinct country music  
27 superstars, as well as defined the character of the live music capital of the world;  
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, the legions of performers include music legends like Bob  
30 Wills, Ernest Tubb, Tex Ritter and Kitty Wells, Jerry Jeff Walker, Kevin Fowler,  
31 Ray Benson of Asleep at the Wheel, Dale Watson, Brian Hofeldt of the Derailers,  
32 Monte Warden of the Waggoners, Bobby Earl Smith of the Jackalopes, Marcia  
33 Ball, Weldon Henson, Kevin Geil of Two Tons of Steel, as well as many others.  
34 Both Willie Nelson and George Strait started their careers at The Broken Spoke  
35 during the 1970s, and Dolly Parton also filmed her 1980 made-for-TV-movie  
36 “Wild Texas Wind” at The Broken Spoke; and

37 **WHEREAS**, the property has been represented in a variety of media and  
38 mementos, such as a photograph of Austin’s Broken Spoke on the cover of George  
39 Strait’s March 2019 album, Honky Tonk Time Machine, his 27th No. 1 Billboard  
40 country album; and

41 **WHEREAS**, The Broken Spoke maintains a museum of artifacts and  
42 souvenirs from the various performers, politicians and celebrities who have been at  
43 The Broken Spoke, documenting much of modern Texas and Austin history,  
44 including the legacy of Honky Tonk and similar dance halls throughout the state;  
45 and

46 **WHEREAS**, The Broken Spoke has received a Texas Historical Marker  
47 recognizing its long history from the founding by James White 58 years ago, and  
48 the venue continues to operated by the White Family; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

51 The City Council initiates the potential designation of The Broken Spoke as  
52 a Historical Landmark under City Code Section 25-2-352 (*Historic Designation*  
53 *Criteria*). As the area around The Broken Spoke has prospered, and significant  
54 development has occurred, it is imperative to secure this venue from a fate suffered  
55 by many venues in the City. Designating The Broken Spoke as a historic landmark  
56 will provide permanent protection to the structure and the operations of the venue.

57 The Broken Spoke should be considered a historical landmark as it aligns  
58 with the following key criteria required to be considered:

- 59 1. The venue is more than 50 years old and retains the original integrity  
60 of its character of a classic Texas music and dance hall;
- 61 2. The property has significant associations with historical events,  
62 including famous performers, visitors, and events, and provides  
63 distinct community value as a cornerstone of Austin's live music  
64 scene; and
- 65 3. The Broken Spoke has long-standing significant associations with  
66 persons and groups of historic importance that contributed  
67 significantly to the history of the city and state.

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

69 The City Council directs the City Manager to fully review and document the  
70 historic designation suitability, including any related documentation, to efficiently  
71 and effectively advance the property for Historic Landmark designation, and  
72 proceed through the Historic Landmark Commission, and the Planning  
73 Commission, and return to Council.

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

75 This City Council requests that the work be done with a sense of urgency in  
76 order to protect and preserve the important institution within Austin and to align  
77 with the anticipated placement of the Historical Marker in April 2023.

78 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

80 Myrna Rios  
81 City Clerk  
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