

RESOLUTION NO. 20221103-081

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, since its founding on November 11, 1964, by James White, The Broken Spoke has entertained legions of Austinites and visitors from around the globe, and helped shape the music career of many distinct country music superstars, as well as defined the character of the live music capital of the world; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

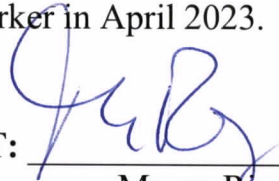
The City Council directs the City Manager to fully review and document the historic designation suitability, including any related documentation, to efficiently and effectively advance the property for Historic Landmark designation, and proceed through the Historic Landmark Commission, and the Planning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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

ADOPTED: November 3, 2022

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk