



COMMISSION RECCOMENDATION

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATION NUMBER: 20230308-2c

REGARDING: 2023 Digital Inclusion Town Hall Listening Sessions

WHEREAS, our stated vision is for Austin to be a beacon of sustainability, social equity, and economic opportunity; where diversity and creativity are celebrated; where community needs and values are recognized; where leadership comes from its community members, and where the necessities of life are affordable and accessible to all;

WHEREAS, it is defined responsibility of the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (CTTC) according to our bylaws to “advise the city council on community technology, telecommunications services” and “new sources of funding for community technology projects,” to help realize the stated vision above;

WHEREAS, the CTTC pursuant to the 2021 - 2022 Work Plan the CTTC hosted four Digital Inclusion Town Hall Listening Sessions in 2022 and has agreed unanimously to host four Digital Inclusion Town Listening Sessions in 2023 and 2024;

WHEREAS, these Listening Sessions were produced with the help, coordination, and sponsorship of other key Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA) members, the specific goal of the Digital Inclusion Town Hall Listening Sessions was to convene community members in community spaces (i.e. libraries and community centers) to directly share their lived experiences with the CTTC and others. Moreover, to provide policy advisors, policy makers, and/or direct service providers firsthand insights about Digital Inclusion challenges, solutions, and potential opportunities to better serve the community through better informed policy or service recommendations and implementations. With this support system for producing events and collaborative partnerships still soundly in place;

WHEREAS, all previous events have been hosted without a budget for supplies, snacks, or the lunch meal which has been secured through in-kind sponsorship;

WHEREAS, there is opportunity for our digital inclusion ecosystem to benefit from a convening that would include businesses, internet service providers (ISPs), non-government organization (NGOs), nonprofits, and government entities as key stakeholders and would support our 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan refresh;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The CTTC recommends the City Council direct the City Manager to allocate \$5,100 from FY2023 budget for the three planned Digital Inclusion Town Hall Listening Sessions to pay for supplies, snacks, coffee, and food sponsorship through our partner Good Work Austin, who will secure a food provider close to the host venue location. Finally, the CTTC further recommends these town hall events should be funded in the FY2024 budget cycle.

Date of Approval: March 8th, 2023

Record of the Vote: Approved by the Community Technology and Telecommunications

Commission on a vote of 7-0.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent and the last name "Martinez" following in a similar style.

Dan Martinez

Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs

City of Austin