



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 23-1474, **Agenda Item #:** 31.

4/13/2023

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### **Posting Language**

Approve The Trail Conservancy's Arts and Culture Plan for the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Town Lake Metropolitan Park.

### **Lead Department**

Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

This item has no fiscal impact.

### **Prior Council Action:**

March 12, 2020 - Council approved Resolution No. 20200312-041, which directed the City Manager to work with parks nonprofit partners that have established relationships with the Parks and Recreation Department, including but not limited to The Trail Foundation and the Pease Park Conservancy, to create opportunities for partnership agreements that benefit the community, and to outline roles and responsibilities between those groups and the Parks and Recreation Department, on a 10-0 vote with Council Member Harper-Madison absent.

May 20, 2021- City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of a park operations and maintenance agreement with The Trail Conservancy for the operation, maintenance, and programming for phased transition of Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Town Lake Metropolitan Park. Council provided direction to return the Annual Programming Plan to City Council for review and direction the first two years of the agreement.

### **For More Information:**

Kimberly McNeeley, Director, Christine Chute Canul, Program Manager II, 512-579-1013.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

August 18, 2021 - Environmental Commissions briefing.

August 24, 2021 - Parks Operation and Maintenance Agreement approved by the Parks and Recreation Board.

October 21, 2021 - City Council Approved the Negotiation and Execution of the Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement. Council provided direction to return the Annual Programming Plan to City Council for review and direction the first two years of the agreement.

May 23, 2022 - Briefing of the final draft of the Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement to Park and Recreation Board.

November 28, 2022 - Annual Programming Briefing to Parks and Recreation Board December 11, 2023 - Annual Programming Plan Approved by City Council.

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**Additional Backup Information:**

This Arts and Culture Plan for the Butler Trail - commissioned by The Trail Conservancy (TTC) to guide its work as it expands its role in managing, improving, and programming the trail offers the first comprehensive strategy for integrating arts and culture activities into the life of the trail. It envisions arts and culture activities to be an integral part of the reconnection, regeneration and healing that are occurring along the trail; essential to the process of engaging the complex past, present and future of this place; and an opportunity to showcase the full force of Austin's creative spirit. The plan includes the following seven types of activities: Permanent Artworks; Temporary Artworks; Performance Artworks; Artist Residencies; Community Engagement; Planning and Design Projects; and Arts and Culture Programming and Events. This plan was first proposed as a way to address the increasingly contentious question of what artworks, if any, should be located along the trail. In 2014, as a result of a controversy over a proposed public art installation, Austin City Council imposed a moratorium on newly commissioned or donated public artworks in the trail area until a comprehensive public art plan could be completed. The City did not immediately have the wherewithal to undertake such a plan, and while the moratorium was ultimately lifted, it has been followed informally since then.

TTC created this Arts and Culture Plan in partnership with Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD), and Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP). Austin's Watershed Protection Department (WPD) has also been an ongoing partner to this process.

The plan has been advised by three groups of people. At the outset of the process, TTC created an Arts and Culture Committee, consisting of a TTC board member and Austin arts leaders, that advised on broad directions for the plan. TTC also created a smaller Technical Advisory Group consisting of TTC, AIPP, PARD, WPD staff and local arts professionals that vetted the detailed recommendations in the plan. Once the process was underway, TTC created a Community Braintrust to guide community engagement from a grassroots perspective.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment, Culture and Lifelong Learning, Government that Works for All.