



**Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board RECOMMENDATION  
20230802-4**

Date: 8-2-2023

Subject: Recommendation to allocate appropriate funding to the Phase 2 project.

Motioned By: Member Lillian “Lily” Zamarripa-Saenz

Seconded By: Chair Navarro

**Recommendation**

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Advisory Board (MACC) recommends the City Council direct the City Manager to allocate appropriate funding to keep the original scope without any additional value engineering for the Phase 2 project.

**Description of Recommendation to Council**

1. Allocate \$6 million dollars from the FY23 budget to the Phase 2 project to complete the project without any additional value engineering.

**Rationale:**

WHEREAS a comprehensive community engagement was completed as part of the 2018 Facility Expansion Plan which included community members and Austin City Council members.

WHEREAS the 2018 Facility Expansion Plan included an estimated Phase 2 project cost between \$30 million and \$42.5 million.

WHEREAS the Austin City Council unanimously voted to adopt the 2018 Facility Expansion Plan on May 24, 2018, with the intent to complete all remaining phases without preconditions on funding sources.

WHEREAS the 2018 Bond Committee recommended, and Austin City Council approved \$27 million to be included under Proposition B for the ESB-MACC Phase 2 project.

WHEREAS 74 percent of voters in the 2018 election voted in favor of Proposition B.

WHEREAS the Joint Venture team of Miro Rivera Architects (Austin) and Estudio Tatiana Bilbao (Mexico City) was selected to lead the Phase 2 design in part because of their experience designing world-class facilities.

WHEREAS the Joint Venture team’s first priority was to provide a Phase 2 Scope of Work outline that would provide clear guidance on what could be afforded with the 2018 Proposition B funds. This phase began in November 2020 and concluded in February 2021. The ESB-MACC Advisory Board unanimously approved the Phase 2 document at the March 3, 2021, Advisory

Board meeting with a list of recommendations on how the Phase 2 project management team could maintain a transparent and equitable process.

WHEREAS the ESB-MACC Advisory Board were notified at the May 13, 2021, Special Called Meeting of the Advisory Board that an additional \$3 million would be required to keep the project within budget. It was then noted that additional funds would become available through a Parkland Dedication Fund. It was the Advisory Board and community's understanding that the design being developed was back under budget.

WHEREAS from December 2020 through March 2021, the Schematic Design was unanimously approved by the Downtown Commission, Design Commission, and Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission.

WHEREAS the Schematic Design was presented to the Advisory Board at the January 26, 2022, Special Called Meeting of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board approved the schematic design at the March 2, 2022, meeting.

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board that the board encourages the Austin City Council to:

Allocate an additional \$6 million for the Phase 2 project in order to fulfill the commitment by the City of Austin to complete a Phase 2 expansion that is commensurate with a world-class cultural center that continues to be a reflection of the strength and resiliency of Austin's Mexican American community.

**Vote**

For: Chair Angelica Navarro, Vice Chair Hilario "Larry" Amaro, Member Gerardo Gandy, Member Lillian "Lily" Zamarripa-Saenz, Member Noemi Castro, Member John Estrada

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Member Litza Gonzales

Attest: Michelle Rojas, Advisory Board Liaison

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