

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO COMPLETE  
THE DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER REPLACEMENT PROJECT**  
*Draft for commission consideration*

**WHEREAS**, the Dougherty Arts Center has been a cornerstone of Austin’s cultural landscape for over 45 years as well as an economic driver for Austin’s creative economy,

**WHEREAS**, the Dougherty Arts Center advertises programs to tourists and provides evergreen programming to all who enter during the Dougherty’s open hours,

**WHEREAS**, the Dougherty Arts Center provides invaluable programs through its arts school, theater and gallery spaces, enhancing Austin’s image as an attractive destination for local families, out of town visitors and relocating workers,

**WHEREAS**, the existing building is undeniably unsafe due to the presence of asbestos and other infrastructure issues making the need for a new building both urgent and non-negotiable,

**WHEREAS**, the replacement project was initiated with a two-year community engagement process which enjoyed enthusiastic participation from artists, PARD staff, non-profit organizations and neighbors at a cost of \$1million,

**WHEREAS**, City Council passed Resolution 20221208-068 directed the City Manager to complete the Dougherty Arts Center without a reduction in size or scope

**WHEREAS**, Austin Parks and Recreation Director provided a presentation to a work session of City Council on March 19, 2024 suggesting that the project begin again with a new community engagement and a new design after \$4.6 million was spent on the design of the new building which fully addressed the concerns and needs of the Dougherty’s constituents,

**WHEREAS**, Studio 8 completed construction documents after 10 years of planning, design and engagement and is ready to amend the design to eliminate the costly underground parking garage,

**NOW THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN  
ARTS COMMISSION:**

that City Council formally commit to completing the Dougherty Arts Center without a reduction in size and scope as stated in Council Resolution 20221208-068 with a complete arts center made up of theaters, galleries and art schools as designed by Studio 8, and that the necessary funds required to complete the Dougherty be included in the 2026 bond.