



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 17

Agenda Date: January 11, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of Historic Preservation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Shanon Shea Miller

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

The Texas Historical Commission Certified Local Government Grant Acceptance

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes acceptance of additional grant funds upon award, not to exceed \$5,401.04, from the Texas Historical Commission for a total award amount of \$35,401.04.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers grants to Certified Local Governments (CLG) to develop and sustain effective local preservation programs critical to preserving historic resources.

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is committed to developing innovative processes and methods that allow citizens to tell their own stories and act as the experts in communicating which historic resources matter to them. Cultural mapping and oral history collections are integrated into the OHP's survey methodology to identify, document, and designate tangible resources as well as to identify and honor intangible and culturally significant resources. OHP seeks to expand this work by developing a strategic plan for the development of cultural context statements utilizing participatory methods.

The strategy will focus on underrepresented and present community engagement methodologies sensitive to community identities by integrating the cultural norms and traditional knowledge of individual communities. The strategic plan will develop best practices for collaborative, inclusive, and equitable processes. A robust public engagement process to develop the strategic plan will include multi-generational stakeholders, community workshops, focus groups, and public review. The strategy will include a gap analysis to identify omissions in representation. It will also establish significant themes in the City's history and development to include a broad range of architectural, social, ethnic, and cultural topics including tangible and intangible elements. The plan will provide guidance on prioritizing cultural context statements that specifically address underrepresented communities and under-told stories and will create the first cultural context statement produced based on this methodology.

In 2021, the City through Ordinance 2021-04-29-0280 accepted a cost reimbursement grant of \$30,000 from the Texas Historical Commission and was required to provide a 1:1 match. This match was met with in-kind services. The estimated completion date for the project is January 31, 2024.

ISSUE:

Cultural context statements are critical tools for understanding, identifying, evaluating, and protecting resources which give each community its social fabric and sense of place. Cultural context statements will increase staff's ability to equitably identify historic resources and improve staff's capacity and timeliness in making demolition and designation decisions, increase transparency in those decisions, and promote the potential use of historic property tax incentives for property owners.

ALTERNATIVES:

Non-acceptance of the grant would limit the ability of staff to comprehensively evaluate the cultural and social significance of potential historic resources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes acceptance of additional grant funds upon award, not to exceed \$5,401.04, from the Texas Historical Commission for a total award amount of \$35,401.04. This grant requires a match to include in-kind services or cash of the lesser of \$35,401.04 or 50% of eligible costs which has been fully met for the new total award amount of \$35,401.04.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council ratify the grant proposal and authorize the acceptance of the cost reimbursement grant.