

## **AGENDA ITEM #2**

**MEETING:** Community Health, Environment, & Culture Committee

**DATE:** October 12, 2021

**DEPARTMENT:** World Heritage Office

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Colleen Swain

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** All

**SUBJECT:**

UNESCO Creative Cities Network - Creative City of Gastronomy Program Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

A briefing on the City of San Antonio's United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative Cities Network Gastronomy program.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On October 31, 2017, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated San Antonio a Creative City of Gastronomy, making the city part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The designation is the result of a collaborative community effort that included the City of San Antonio, Visit San Antonio, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, several local nonprofit organizations, and private individuals and entities.

Staff will present an overview of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and a briefing on San Antonio's Creative City of Gastronomy program. Acceptance into the network and continued membership in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, requires the preparation and submission of a Membership Monitoring Report, every four years following the year of designation. Staff will provide information on the draft report that includes accomplishments and the proposed Action Plan for the next four years. San Antonio's MMR is due before November 30, 2021.

Cities that join UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, internationally and nationally, share knowledge, as well as gain knowledge to ensure that creativity and culture are drivers in sustainable development. This designation further promotes San Antonio internationally and will be a catalyst to continuing to build a robust and thriving city for those who live and visit here.

UCCN covers seven thematic areas: Craft and Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music. Since 2004, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network highlights its members' creativity within seven fields and now counts a total of 246 cities.

**ISSUE:**

As part of the application submitted in 2017, the UCCN requires the submission of a Membership Monitoring Report every four years. Staff will provide information on the draft report and a briefing on San Antonio's Creative City of Gastronomy recent activities and upcoming work to support the goals of the Strategic Work Plan.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.