



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 25

Agenda Date: August 11, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 1

SUBJECT:

José Navarro Statue Donation to the Texas Historical Commission

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the City of San Antonio's donation of the José Navarro Statue to the Texas Historical Commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

José Antonio Navarro was a leading advocate for Tejano rights who fought discrimination faced by Mexican-Americans during the battle of Texas Independence. His home, located at 228 S. Laredo St., was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1962, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, and named a National Historic Landmark in 2017.

In 1995, a bronze statue of Navarro created by artist Jonas Perkins was donated to the City of San Antonio as a gift from the Bonham Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, who worked in conjunction with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and private donors. The statue is located just outside of the Casa Navarro State Historic Site, facing his home and mercantile

building on the corner of Nueva and Laredo Streets, on property that the City of San Antonio will be conveying to the University of Texas at San Antonio.

ISSUE:

With the Navarro statue's installation site transferring ownership to the University of Texas at San Antonio, the Texas Historical Commission requested ownership, including oversight and maintenance, of the Navarro statue under the condition that the statue remain accessible to the public and in proximity to the Casa Navarro State Historic Site. On May 3, 2022, the San Antonio Arts Commission's Public Art Committee approved the donation of the statue to the Texas Historical Commission, and on May 6, 2022, the San Antonio Arts Commission approved the donation of the piece.

ALTERNATIVES:

If City Council chooses not to approve the donation, the statue will remain on the City of San Antonio's public art inventory.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact with this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff and the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art Committee recommend the donation of the José Antonio Navarro statue to the Texas Historical Commission.