

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 09/12/23

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 23-0739

**LOG NAME:** 02FWMSH2023

**SUBJECT**

(CD 7) Authorize Contribution to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History in the Amount of \$5,000,000.00 as a One-Time Capital Contribution to Support the Construction of a New Omni Digital Dome and Adopt Appropriation Ordinances

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Authorize the contribution to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 as a one-time capital contribution to support the construction of a new omni digital dome to expand cutting-edge technology and create innovative opportunities for new programming;
  - 2) Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the General Fund in the amount of \$5,000,000.00, from available assigned fund balance, for the purpose of funding a one-time capital contribution to support the construction of a new omni digital dome; and
  - 3) Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the General Capital Projects Fund in an amount of \$5,000,000.00, transferred from the General Fund, for the purpose of funding the Museum of Science & History project (City Project No. 104696).
  - 4) Amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Adopted Budget and Fiscal Year 2023 – 2027 Capital Improvement Program.
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**DISCUSSION:**

World-class museums contribute significantly to the City of Fort Worth's community identity and economic vitality. Since 1945, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH) has served countless residents, families, and visitors through interactive exhibits and hands-on history lessons. The Omni Theater has welcomed over 10 million visitors since opening in 1983, serving as the main revenue driver before closing in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the Omni Theater's technology is four decades old and has become inoperable, making it difficult to sustain museum patronage or create exciting programs. To that end, the FWMSH has funding commitments for the \$21,600,000.00 needed to replace the Omni Theater with Digital Dome technology. Furthermore, the FWMSH has created a proforma that shows sustainability with no additional City funding needed.

Therefore, the purpose of this M&C is to request that the City Council authorize the contribution to the FWMSH in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 as a one-time capital contribution to support the construction of a new omni digital dome to expand cutting-edge technology and create innovative opportunities for new programming.

The City's contribution of \$5,000,000 comes after verifying the FWMSH has successfully:

- 1) shown that the remaining \$16,600,000 of capital contributions needed to fund the Digital Dome has already been committed by other organizations, thus putting the FWMSH "across the fundraising finish line", and
- 2) shown a proforma that indicates full sustainability without the need for additional funding

The funding for this contribution was assigned in the Fiscal Year 2022 fund balance to fulfill the City's commitment to assist in the replacement of the Omni Theater Digital Dome at the FWMSH.

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**FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are currently available in the assigned fund balance within the General Fund and upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinances, funds will be available in the General Capital Project Fund for the Museum of Science & History project. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the City Manager Department has the responsibility of verifying the availability of funds.

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:** Fernando Costa 6122

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**Additional Information Contact:**