

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/27/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-0729

LOG NAME: 84TEXTREASURES GRANT FY2023

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for and Authorize Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Fiscal Year 2023 TexTreasures Grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in the Amount Up to \$25,000.00 for the Purpose of Funding the Digitization of the *Fort Worth Press* Newspaper Microfilm Collection, Authorize Execution of Related Grant Agreement, and Adopt Attached Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify the application for and authorize the acceptance of, if awarded, the Fiscal Year 2023 TexTreasures Grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, in the amount up to \$25,000.00 for the purpose of funding the digitization of the *Fort Worth Press* newspaper microfilm collection;
 2. Authorize the execution of a related grant agreement with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission; and
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund, subject to receipt of the grant, in the amount up to \$25,000.00.
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DISCUSSION:

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission provides a competitive TexTreasures grant designed to help public libraries make their special collections more accessible for the people of Texas and beyond. The Fort Worth Public Library applied for this grant in an amount up to \$25,000.00 to fund the digitization of the *Fort Worth Press* newspaper microfilm collection currently housed at the Central Library. The newspaper, published from 1921-1975, documents a significant portion of history for Fort Worth and is of vital historical importance to the Library's collection. Researchers of local, state, and national history request the *Fort Worth Press* more frequently than any other microfilm resource at the Fort Worth Public Library. They include journalists, professional and avocational historians, academic researchers, and those who seek to learn more about a person or event they recall.

The Library previously partnered with University of North Texas Digital Libraries and Portal to Texas History (PTH) on other successful digitization projects. The Library will partner with them again to digitize the *Fort Worth Press* newspaper from microfilm and index the content. The searchable digital version will be made available to the public via the university's PTH as a collection of the Texas Digital Newspaper Project (TDNP). Making the *Fort Worth Press* available on the PTH will be of great value to those who are interested in the history of Fort Worth. The PTH is a free public resource, and is available to anyone with an internet connected device 24/7, 365 days a year, which is an incalculable increase availability to researchers.

The extent of the collection to be digitized is 328 reels of microfilm but the cost to digitize exceeds the \$25,000.00 limit of this grant. A portion of the collection, issues of the *Fort Worth Press* from 1921-1932, were selected for this grant because these microfilm reels are the most fragile. The Library intends to apply for this grant again in two subsequent TexTreasures grant cycles to complete digitization of the remainder of the microfilm collection to the extent allowable by copyright.

The Library will promote the new collection on the Library's website, social media channels and the City of Fort Worth News. In addition, the information for accessing the new collection will be provided to local school districts, charter schools, home school organizations, and local universities.

There are no indirect costs since payroll expenditures are not part of the grant award.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: Texas State Library and Archives Commission

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Library Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Library Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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