

# **A Resolution**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## **SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL JUNETEENTH MUSEUM TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE FORT WORTH'S DIVERSE HISTORY AND CULTURE**

**WHEREAS** world-class museums contribute significantly to the City of Fort Worth's community identity and economic vitality; and

**WHEREAS** nearly two decades ago, Fort Worth icon and national treasure Opal Lee founded a local Juneteenth Museum to commemorate the significance of that date and event and to further her effort to make Juneteenth recognized as a federal holiday in order to promote and memorialize its importance as a milestone on the path toward human freedom; and

**WHEREAS** the fierce determination and vision of Opal Lee, known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," has made Juneteenth a federal holiday while bringing widespread recognition to the City of Fort Worth ("City"); and

**WHEREAS** as Ms. Lee's efforts gained national attention and following the recognition of Juneteenth as a national holiday in 2021, interest grew in taking her initial local museum and transforming it into a National Juneteenth Museum to provide expanded opportunities for awareness, education, and understanding; and

**WHEREAS** in addition to increasing tourism and educational opportunities, museums and facilities addressing challenging parts of the City's and nation's past benefit the public by offering opportunities to promote and enhance understanding and further community healing; and

**WHEREAS** the City seeks to leverage its existing cultural resources by supporting the development and expansion of high-quality museums that preserve and promote Fort Worth's diverse history and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 5613-09-2022, supporting the development of the National Juneteenth Museum in Fort Worth; and

**WHEREAS** a National Juneteenth Museum is planned to break ground in Fort Worth on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026; and

**WHEREAS** the City has reserved funds to support development and construction of the Juneteenth National Museum in Fort Worth; and

**WHEREAS** the National Juneteenth Museum requested to lease the Southside Community Center property for the purpose of constructing the National Juneteenth Museum; and

**WHEREAS** the City currently plans to relocate programs operated from the Southside Community Center to the Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** The City Council supports the development of a National Juneteenth Museum by pledging to fund up to one-third of the capital costs associated with the project, subject to Resolution No. 5613-09-2022 and the following conditions:

- a. The total City contribution to the project shall not exceed \$15 million;
- b. The City Manager's review and approval of a feasibility study and business plan demonstrating that the museum's ongoing operations are economically and financially feasible without City subsidy;
- c. The City shall not contribute its share of capital costs unless and until the museum first provides a letter from the museum's financial institution confirming funds-on-hand in an amount no less than two-thirds of the project's planned construction costs, exclusive of the City's funding, which is intended to be provided as the "last dollars in;" and
- d. The appropriation of City funds shall require:
  - i. City Council approval of an appropriation ordinance; and
  - ii. A finding by the City Council of the specific public purposes the museum will serve.

**Section 2.** The City Council supports leasing the Southside Community Center property for the development of a National Juneteenth Museum for a term of forty (40) years and rental rate of \$1.00 per year, subject to:

- a. approval by the City Council through a Mayor and Council Communication;
- b. the museum meeting the conditions contained herein; and
- c. the successful, adequate, and ongoing accommodation of all existing programming and uses of the Southside Community Center in the ground floor of the Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods or at other facilities within the community.
- d. the City's exclusive use and occupancy of the Southside Community Center until the conditions contained herein have been met, the museum has completed design and permitting, and the museum has fully funded the construction of the museum.

**Section 3.** The City Council finds that the creation of the National Juneteenth Museum in accordance with the terms of this resolution benefits the public by providing and expanding educational opportunities, enhancing the City's national and international appeal as a cultural destination, and offering opportunities to bring the entire community together to foster better understanding and relationships.

**Section 4.** The City Council requests that the City Manager continue to reserve a

portion of the City's debt capacity to support issuance of debt in an amount not to exceed \$15 million for the support of the National Juneteenth Museum, subject to the museum meeting the conditions contained herein.

**Section 5.** The City’s willingness to provide funding and a lease of the Southside Community Center property is contingent on the museum meeting the criteria contained herein and in Resolution No. 5613-09-2022 prior to October 31st , 2026 (the “Completion Date”).

**Section 6.** If the National Juneteenth Museum fails to meet the requirements contained herein and in Resolution No. 5613-09-2022 prior to the Completion Date, the City’s commitments shall be null and void; however, the City Council may re-evaluate whether to extend its commitments for an additional period of time under similar or revised terms and conditions.

**Section 7.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Fort Worth, and is accordingly so resolved.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary