

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 01/13/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0020

LOG NAME: 19AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize a Change in Use of Funds Allocated for the African American Museum, Authorize Execution of an Agreement with the Fort Worth African American Museum and Cultural Center for the Provision of \$40,000.00 to Support the Construction of the African American Museum and Cultural Center, Find that a Public Purpose Exists and that Adequate Controls are in Place

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize a change in the use of funds allocated for the African American Museum via Mayor and Council Communication 22-0546;
 2. Authorize execution of an agreement with the Fort Worth African American Museum and Cultural Center for the provision of \$40,000.00 to support the construction of the African American Museum and Cultural Center; and
 3. Find that the provision of such funds serves the public purpose of preserving the history and culture of African Americans, including the stories of African Americans in Fort Worth to enlighten, inspire, and engage everyone toward better understanding, and find that adequate controls will be in place under the agreement to ensure the public purpose is carried out.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to request a change in the use of funds allocated for the African American Museum via M&C 22-0546 in June 2022. The City Council approved providing \$40,000.00 (City Project No. 104151) to the North Texas Community Foundation to partially fund a study on the economic and financial feasibility of a Fort Worth African American museum and cultural center. The study was to include an evaluation of multiple potential sites for a museum. However, in July 2025, the museum steering committee notified the City that they had been able to purchase two units of an existing building totaling 5,000 square feet located in Council District 8 at 3100 and 3104 East Rosedale Street to be used for the museum. Because this purchase eliminated the need for a site evaluation and feasibility study, it was requested that the City's contribution be used to help complete building improvements, up to a maximum of \$40,000.00.

Given that these expenditures align with the City's original funding source, which was the Future Community Partnership project of the General Capital Projects Fund, approval is requested to reallocate the City's funding for the identified building projects. In addition, approval is requested to pay the funds directly to the Fort Worth African American Museum and Cultural Center (the Museum), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, upon proof of appropriate expense documentation in lieu of the North Texas Community Foundation.

The museum serves the vital public purpose of preserving the history and culture of African Americans including the stories of African Americans in Fort Worth to enlighten, inspire, and engage everyone toward better understanding. Through the agreement between the City and the Museum, adequate controls will be in place to ensure that the public purpose is carried out. The Museum will be required to meet certain City requirements, including using the funds for the purpose intended and compliance with all applicable laws.

Funding is budgeted in the General Capital Projects Fund for the Neighborhood Services Department for the purpose of funding the African American Museum Study project, as appropriated.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the General Capital Projects Fund for the African American Museum Study project to support the approval of the above recommendations and execution of the agreement. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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