

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**January 6, 2026**

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**SUBJECT: AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM FUNDING UPDATE**

This report provides information on a proposed funding reallocation for the development of an African American museum in Fort Worth, in advance of an M&C planned for the January 13 City Council agenda.

In early 2020, the City of Fort Worth, including the Neighborhood Services Department as the lead department sponsor; the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Worth, known as Fort Worth Housing Solutions (FWHS); and a subcommittee of the African American Steering Committee began working to establish the criteria for an institution to preserve the history and culture of African Americans with an emphasis on the stories of African Americans in Fort Worth. This initiative resulted from initial redevelopment discussions for Butler Place, a public housing development owned by FWHS. Through a series of community input workshops, stakeholders supported the redevelopment of Butler Place and also proposed the creation of an African American museum to mitigate the adverse impacts of redevelopment upon historic resources associated with this community.

In April 2022 (M&C 22-0271), the City Council approved applying for and accepting a North Texas Community Foundation grant in an amount up to \$30,000 to fund a portion of a study on the economic and financial feasibility of a Fort Worth African American museum and cultural center. Additionally, in June 2022 (M&C 22-0546), the City Council approved providing \$40,000 (Project #104151) to the North Texas Community Foundation to partially fund this feasibility study, which was to include an evaluation of multiple potential sites for a museum. The estimated total cost of the study was \$230,000 with the Steering Committee expected to raise the remainder of the funds needed for the study.

In July 2025, the Fort Worth African American Museum and Cultural Center (the Museum), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, 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.

Given that building improvements would align with the City's original funding source, which was the Future Community Partnership project of the General Capital Projects Fund, an M&C to request approval for this reallocation of funds is planned for the January 13 City Council meeting. In addition, the M&C will request that the funds be

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paid directly to the Museum upon proof of appropriate expense documentation instead of through 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.

While the \$30,000 North Texas Community Foundation grant was awarded in May 2022, a reimbursement under the grant was never requested since the feasibility study was not initiated. Furthermore, the performance period for this grant has expired.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Neighborhood Services Director, Kacey Thomas, at 817-392-8187.

**Jesus "Jay" Chapa
City Manager**