

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;

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 a National Juneteenth Museum is planned to break ground in Fort Worth in 2023; and

WHEREAS the City has sufficient debt capacity to reserve funds to support development and construction of the Juneteenth National Museum in Fort Worth.

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

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 the following conditions:

- a. The total City contribution to the project shall not exceed \$15 million.
 - b. The City Manager shall review and accept a feasibility study and/or a business plan demonstrating that the museum's ongoing operation is economically and financially feasible without City subsidy.
 - c. The City shall not contribute its share of capital costs unless and until the organization first provides evidence of having raised the balance of the project's costs, with the City's funding being intended to be provided as "last dollars in."
 - d. Appropriation of funds shall require
 - i. City Council approval of an appropriation ordinance
 - ii. A finding of the specific public purpose or purposes the Museum project serves.
2. 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.
3. The City Council requests that the City Manager 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 organization's meeting the conditions laid out above.

Adopted this 13th day of September, 2022.

ATTEST:

By: _____

Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary