

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the *CreateAustin* Cultural Master Plan is the result of a two year process of cultural assessment, research and community engagement undertaken to chart a course for Austin's cultural development over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, *CreateAustin* advocates a strengthening of organizational functions and an enhancement of the City of Austin's leadership, policy, support and structure of its public cultural agency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin currently utilizes two different departments to administer its arts and culture activities: the Cultural Affairs Division housed in the Parks and Recreation Department and the Cultural Arts Division housed in the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office; and

WHEREAS, the *CreateAustin* Cultural Master plan recommends the creation of a City Department of Arts and Culture; and

WHEREAS, the initial step toward the creation of such a City department would be to determine its feasibility and consider the human resources, financial, legal and structural implications; and

WHEREAS, the functions of such a City department should focus on reducing the fragmentation of planning, management and implementation of City funded arts and cultural projects as well as maximizing funding opportunities for artists and firmly establishing Austin as a premiere city of arts and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to conduct a feasibility study for combining the functions of the Cultural Affairs Division of the Parks and Recreation Department with the Cultural Contracts Funding Program, Art in Public Places Program, and Civic Arts Program of the Cultural Arts Division from Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office into a new City Department of Arts and Culture that will leverage available resources and raise the significance of arts and culture within the City of Austin; and

In determining the feasibility of the creation of the new City department, it is understood that all programs and activities related to music and film that are not specifically part of the Cultural Funding Programs, Art in Public Places Program, and Civic Arts Program will be maintained within EGRSO and kept separate from the new City Department of Arts and Culture; and

Should the City Manager determine that creating a Department of Arts and Culture is feasible, the City Manager is directed to return to Council with an implementation strategy for Council approval.

ADOPTED: _____, 2008 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

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