

## AGENDA



Thursday, September 24, 2009

**Neighborhood Housing and Community Development  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**Item No. 45**

**Subject:** Authorize acceptance of a transfer from the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Austin of the fee simple title to two lots and a structure in the 900 block of East 11th Street to the City at no cost, for future use as the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility; and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute lease agreements with Pro Arts Collective and the African-American Capital City Chamber of Commerce.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Margaret R. Shaw, Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, 974-3100

**Prior Council Action:** June 8, 2005 - approved ordinance establishing Bond Language for the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility; November 2008 - City Council approved the E. 11th and 12th Street Urban Renewal Plan modifications, which included the restoration of the Detrick-Hamilton House; May 14, 2009 - approval of Substantial Amendment to the City's Fiscal Years 2004-2009 Consolidated Plan; Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 to administer grant funds made available to the City of Austin from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 of which \$550,000 is for creation of the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility.

The African American Cultural and Heritage Facility was initiated through the City of Austin's African American Quality of Life Initiative, and in November 7, 2006 Austin voters confirmed support of the facility in the bond election. This facility will serve as the anchor and gateway to the African American Cultural District created and approved by the Austin City Council on December 13, 2007. The boundaries of the African American Cultural District extend from North: Manor Road, East: Airport Boulevard, West: I-35 East frontage road, South: beginning on East 11th Street.

The Detrick-Hamilton House, constructed approximately in 1880 and part of one of the earliest African American communities in East Austin will be renovated and additional space constructed to house an African American Visitors Bureau and space for performing arts. Owned by one of the first freed slaves in Travis County, Thomas Detrick, it remained in the family until the City's Urban Renewal Agency obtained site control in September, 2000. The structure, located at 912 East 11th Street, is eligible for historic designation. The adjacent vacant lot at 908 East 11th Street is also being transferred to the City.

Using 2006 General Obligation funds and Community Development Block Grants (entitlement and stimulus allocations) from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), this City-owned facility will house community non-profit organizations as well as provide information and exhibits on the African American Heritage District. The African American Resource Advisory Commission supported at their March 4, 2009 meeting, providing space for Pro Arts Collective, Inc. and the Capital City African-American Chamber of Commerce. When complete, the building will meet the City's LEED Silver Standard.

Pro Arts Collective Inc., founded in 1993, is an incubator of artistic expression representing the African Diaspora and is dedicated to the production of transformational and accessible works for the enrichment of the community and committed to assist with drama and theatrical education in local schools. The

Capital City African-American Chamber of Commerce (CCAACC), incorporated in 1982, promotes the development of African American businesses and the expansion of the business community by providing resources, technical assistance, and leadership on policy issues that enhance economic growth and by promoting convention and tourism. The CCAACC is also committed to establishing and operating an African American visitors bureau.

These funds are made available from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the Stimulus Act. The grant is in the amount of \$2,003,003 of Community Development Block Grant-Recovery funds to be administered by the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development office. Of these HUD funds, \$550,000 will be available for this project. These funds will be used in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit and will, therefore, be subject to increased transparency and accountability.