



## **CITY OF AUSTIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT #7551.002**

### **FACT SHEET**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Elisabet Ney Museum Building, ADA Accessibility and Landscape Improvements

**PURPOSE:** Stabilize historic structure; improve ADA accessibility; partially restore landscape to period of Elisabet Ney

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Elisabet Ney Museum Building**

- Subgrade waterproofing and improved drainage to address water infiltration issues into historic structure
- Redesign and relocation of entrance ramp for Americans with Disabilities to increase accessibility

**Elisabet Ney Museum Landscape (Work will only be on the property south of Waller Creek)**

In order to bring the present landscape into greater relevance to Elisabet Ney, it will be necessary to replace ornamental plantings and landscaping that were added during the decade of 1930-40 when the Elisabet Ney Museum was repurposed as a contemporary arts center. To honor the people and organizations and their considerable contributions from this period, the Elisabet Ney Museum will thank the organizations and individuals publicly. The museum will continue working with these organizations to determine a manner of appreciation that is most acceptable to honor their history and contributions to the Elisabet Ney Museum.

Restoration of Elisabet Ney's native Texas landscape:

- Re-vegetation with native prairie grasses and wildflowers
- Removal of invasive species
- Transplanting when possible of ornamental crape myrtles and replacement with trees identified in Ney's studio photographs. Replacement trees include 5 post oaks, 1 pecan and 3 eastern redbuds.
- Removal of 3 live oaks that are damaging the historic building and possibly 1 in the project staging area. Replacement of 1 extremely damaged post oak with same. Post oak is a public safety hazard.
- Restoration of Ney's carriage drive. Drive will serve as pathway to building and will meet ADA code
- Replacement of 7 *Ashe Junipers* with same (3 are dead). Addition of 6 *Ashe Junipers* to complete the carriage drive designed by Elisabet Ney
- Re-planting of yucca and agave
- Re-creation of Elisabet Ney's vegetable garden
- Establishment of Elisabet Ney and Edmund Montgomery's tent site
- Removal and salvaging of east stone terrace and replanting with native grasses and wildflowers
- Removal and salvaging of paving stone pathway on west grounds

- Reconstruction of Ney's historic cedar post fence on east property line to support new educational programming and protect schoolchildren from running into street after school tours. A gate identified in Ney photographs will provide public access.

Note: The CIP landscape work meets the City land code. Only one protected size tree that is extremely damaged and untreatable is being removed.

**BUDGET:** Planning \$110,926; Construction \$285,553; Project Management \$68,000. Total: \$484,479

**FUNDING:** U.S. Department of Interior Save America's Treasures Grant (with deadline); City Bond

**APPROVALS AND PERMITS:** Austin Historic Landmark Commission, Texas Historical Commission and U.S. Department of Interior Save America's Treasures Program., Austin City Council. Site Plan Exemption

**START DATE (Planning)**– October, 2008; **END DATE:** 180 days from commencement of construction.

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS:**

- Preservation of Elisabet Ney Museum for current and future generations
- Increased accessibility to the Elisabet Ney Museum building and grounds
- Expanded programming made possible through restoration of historical accuracy to the Elisabet Ney Museum grounds
- Opportunities for more authentic, historically accurate experiences of Elisabet Ney, her former studio and Austin, Texas, at the turn of the 19th-century. This is of particular significance for the museum's many visiting schoolchildren, students, and historians as well as Austin's out-of-town visitors to the museum.
- Opportunities to experience late 19th-century Texas and the earliest years of Hyde Park, one of Austin's first neighborhoods established in 1892
- *Save America's Treasures* site of local, state, national and international significance
- Historically significant model of an early ecologically sustainable, native Texas landscape