

AGENDA



Thursday, March 24, 2011

**Convention Center
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 13**

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$47,000 in grant funds from the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) Heritage Grant Fund, and amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Austin Convention Center Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20100913-002 to appropriate \$47,000 for the reparation and restoration of the Trask House located at 217 Red River Street.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) Heritage Grant Fund. An additional \$75,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Austin Convention Center Department.

Fiscal Note: A Fiscal Note is attached.

For More Information: Van Jobe, Guest Services Manager, Austin Convention Center Department, 404-4047; Janis Jones, 404-4044

The Austin Convention Center (ACC) has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$47,000 by the Historic Landmark Commission for the reparation and restoration of the Trask House located at 217 Red River Street, Austin, Texas. The award is made possible through a collaboration between the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) and the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC).

The purpose of the Heritage Grants Fund is to promote tourism through the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of historic buildings, structures, objects, monuments, sites or districts (historic property or historic properties). Funding is available for historic properties and for improvements within the public rights-of-way. Properties must show their appeal to tourists through location, advertising, public access, visitor counts and activities.

The grant is for a one-time historic preservation and restoration initiative to promote tourism through the preservation and restoration of the Trask House. The Grantor does not require the City of Austin to provide a sustainability match as part of grant requirements. No funding from the General Fund is required to fund FTE's for this initiative. ACC will provide additional funding in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the reparation and restoration project. The anticipated cost of the entire project is approximately \$122,000. The work will be performed by an outside firm in order to obtain the necessary expertise. The project is in the preliminary phase and a Notice to Proceed to the consultant Parshall & Associates Architects to start the Design Phase will be issued by end of March. We anticipate coming back to Council within four to six months to award the construction contract. The goal is to complete the project in fall 2011.

ACC will ensure the project is completed in accordance with standards set forth by ACVB and HLC. The grounds of the Trask House shall be accessible to the general public for purposes of viewing and appreciating the historic value of the Trask House. Hours for visitation will be set by the Austin Convention Center. The ACC shall report visitation to the ACVB at six month intervals for two years following completion of the heritage grants-funded portion of the work. The reports shall include figures identifying local and non-local visitors including their point of origin and information about where they learned about the Trask House.