

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin in partnership with Mexic-Arte Museum and other public and private entities will develop the 5TH Street Mexican American Heritage Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the corridor will run from Republic Park on West 5TH to Saltillo Plaza on East 5TH with Mexic-Arte Museum as the central anchor between the two points; and

WHEREAS, the 5TH Street Mexican American Cultural Heritage Corridor will interconnect and enhance the downtown's network of public parks and streets; celebrate the distinct history, culture and identity of the place; introduce public art; and reinforce an authentic sense of place; and

WHEREAS, studies of the area clearly document that the first Mexican and Mexican American community settled in what today is known as "Downtown Austin" along the 5TH Street Corridor and adjacent spaces; and

WHEREAS, the area bound by 5TH Street to the north, the Colorado River to the south, Shoal Creek to the west and Congress Avenue to the east

was the area where many institutions of great importance to the City and the Mexican American community including Mexican Park (now Republic Square), Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Catholic Church (1907); the first public Mexican School (1916); and were located the Parochial School of Our Lady of Guadalupe (1918) were located; and

WHEREAS, from 1873 until 1927 and starting again in 2002 Republic Square was and continues to be the site for Austin's Mexican American community's cultural, political, and family events, the major event being the Annual Diez y Seis Celebration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin will permanently place the busts of the Mexican Independence heroes, Miguel Hidalgo and Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon, gifts of the Governor of Coahuila, Mexico on Republic Square; and

WHEREAS, along 5TH Street other important sites for the Mexican American community include the Philip's Building dance hall which hosted famous Mexican musicians; another original park, Brush Square on 5TH Street which houses the Joseph and Susanna Dickinson Hannig Museum; Mexic-Arte Museum which moved to 5TH and Congress in 1988; Roy and Matt Velaquez Plaza at the Medina Street Pocket Park which pays tributes to Austin musicians

from the 1940s; and Plaza Saltillo on the corner of Comal and 5TH which was inaugurated in 1999 by a visiting delegation from our Sister City of Saltillo, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, this is an ideal project that will have a major impact on Austin to enhance the quality of life, increase creative activity, create a sense of place and stimulate the local economy; and **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Austin City Council supports the 5TH Street Mexican American Heritage Corridor and thanks Mexic-Arte Museum, the Fiesta de Independencia Foundation, the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association and other public and private entities for their efforts to plan and realize this project which will recognize past contributions of the Mexican American community, enhance the present and build a better future for our city.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk