

RESOLUTION NO. 20140626-096

WHEREAS, the *CreateAustin* Cultural Master Plan clearly states that arts, culture and creativity are essential to Austin's unique and distinctive identity; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the celebrated Austin sculptor and teacher, Charles Umlauf, and his wife Angeline gifted their home, art studio and 168 sculptures to the City for both public enjoyment and education; and

WHEREAS, following a campaign led by Austin arts philanthropist Roberta Crenshaw, the sculpture garden and mid-century inspired museum were built on adjacent property and the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum (USGM) was incorporated as a non-profit to operate and support the City's facility; and

WHEREAS, over the last 23 years, the City and USGM have shared responsibility for maintenance, operation, and certain further improvements of the existing museum and sculpture garden, including payment of utilities, parking lot repair, repair and maintenance of the irrigation system and water features, mowing and trimming, litter pickup on the grounds and parking lot, landscaping, forestry and horticultural assistance, and park security; and

WHEREAS, as its established purpose, the USGM hosts cornerstone and contemporary exhibits, adult, youth and accessible education programs, camps, lectures, and tours, free public school group tours, free summers, free family days once a month, as well as serving as a venue for corporate events, meetings, weddings, memorials, and more; and

WHEREAS, the USGM offers the largest and most accessible

collection of bronze sculptures in Texas allowing for touch tours for visually impaired, special needs, and the general public, and currently serves over 40,000 visitors annually and provides free educational tours to over 4,000 public school children each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the USGM Board of Directors began discussions with the City on a long-term agreement to replace the current 10-year Maintenance, Operation and Improvements Agreement and to integrate all of the property including the home, studio and family sculpture garden located north atop 506 Barton Blvd. into one cohesive site; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the City officially received full access to the home, studio, and land at 506 Barton Blvd., and as part of the estate settlement, the Umlauf Family Partnership gifted USGM almost all of the belongings within the home and studio, including drawings, sketchbooks, archives, library, letters, furnishings, and tools, thereby significantly enhancing USGM's collection; and

WHEREAS, in order to bring the whole of the 7.79 acres to the public, for residents and visitors, and to provide a substantial contribution to the arts, culture, and creativity of Austin, the USGM needs the City's support to realize the intent of the gift by Angeline and Charles Umlauf, namely that this be a public space, centered around art appreciation and education, for all to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreations Department (PARC) has an available annual lump sum amount of \$82,000 for this facility and the USGM has requested \$200,000 to adequately maintain and sustain this growing public arts facility; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the annual payment, USGM has identified a need for a one-time allocation of funding in the amount of \$65,000 to contribute to the total costs to make the necessary repairs to the home and studio located at 506 Barton Blvd., thereby stabilizing the two structures, protecting the inside and outside of the structures, including its assets, and protecting the grounds below at the existing museum and sculpture garden, preventing further deterioration and avoiding extensive and costly future improvements or possibly the inability to use the original home and artist studio at all in the future; and


WHEREAS, the estimate of \$65,000 does not include all estimates for the repairs required for the home and studio but the USGM will commit to raise additional funds needed to repair and make publicly available the home and studio; and

WHEREAS, the USGM has begun planning for the integration of the entire 7.79 acres and expansion of existing facilities and recently completed a 3 year Strategic Plan outlining goals and strategies to achieve its long-term vision; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to explore opportunities to provide immediate one-time funding for stabilization of the City's recent assumption of the Charles Umlauf home and studio at 506 Barton Blvd. in the amount of \$65,000 and report back to Council by August 7, 2014, and to include options for increased operational funding for the Umlauf Sculpture Garden as a part of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget process.

ADOPTED: June 26, 2014

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk