

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	37512	Agenda Number	54.
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Meeting Date:	11/20/2014	Department:	Parks and Recreation
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Austin Independent School District for the use of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Laura Esparza, (512) 974-4001; Cora D. Wright, (512) 974-6743.
Boards and Commission Action:	October 28, 2014 - Approved by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 6-0 with Board Member Osgood absent. Recommendation No. 20141028-002.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

In September 2013, a group of parents, community advocates, and local city, university and public library leaders convened at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Culture Center (ESB-MACC) to discuss the issues and roles of libraries and community advocacy. Out of this event, Nuestro Grupo emerged. Nuestro Grupo, an Austin grassroots organization, has partnered with the National Latino Education Research and Policy Project, the Austin Independent School District. (AISD), the University of Texas at Austin, the City of Austin's Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Culture Center, and local educational and cultural organizations to initiate a community-based, language and culture revitalization project at the ESB-MACC.

The combined efforts of the aforementioned organizations have resulted in the establishment of a three-pronged, community-based initiative in public education that includes:

- A biannual curriculum development workshop,
- A Saturday academy for emergent bilinguals, and
- A two-way dual language elementary summer camp to teach Mexican American and Tejano history and

culture.

To facilitate the delivery of the Saturday academy component of the community-based initiative, AISD has requested the utilization of three classrooms at the ESB-MACC. The details of the utilization are as follows:

- 14 no-cost Saturday classes will be offered annually (2015-2017) commencing in January and culminating in May, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. during the facility's normal hours of operation;
- Participants will include a minimum of 35 AISD fourth-grade ELL (English Language Learners) students and their parents that will be recruited from Metz, Sanchez and Zavala elementary schools; and
- AISD will provide funding for teachers and instructional materials.

The program benefits to Austin's constituents and communities will be far reaching. The program will:

- Promote bi-literacy for Austin's children, while revitalizing Spanish culture and language;
- Develop appreciation for Mexican-American and Tejano history and culture;
- Provide early, developmentally appropriate catalysts for academic achievement;
- Empower parents to navigate the school system on their children's behalf; and
- Build a loyal constituency for ESB-MACC.

In addition, curriculum writers and teachers will not only acquire knowledge of an important content area and of instructional techniques, but will also gain a sense of purpose that could lead to a long-term commitment to the teaching profession.

Upon direction from the City Council, the City, through its Park and Recreation Department, is prepared to negotiate and execute an interlocal agreement that would allow AISD's use of the MACC to conduct the Saturday academy.