

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (CCO)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

65638

Agenda Number

6.

Meeting Date:

December 15, 2016

Department:

Capital Contracting Office

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with JAIME BEAMAN, AIA, INC. dba CASABELLA ARCHITECTS to provide design and planning services for the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center for a total contract amount not to exceed \$360,000. (District 9)

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached

**Purchasing  
Language:**

Professional Service Agreement

**Prior Council  
Action:**

January 13, 2000 - Council approved a professional services agreement with CasaBella + Del Campo & Maru Joint Venture for architectural design and construction phase services for the Mexican American Cultural Center.

**For More  
Information:**

Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Sarah Torchin, 512-974-7141; Kim McKnight, 512-974-9478.

**Boards and  
Commission  
Action:**

October 25, 2016 – Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 9-0 with Commissioners Roth and Donovan absent.

October 5, 2016 – Recommended by the Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board on a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Tijerina, Powers, and Cerda-Prazak absent.

**Related Items:**

**MBE / WBE:**

This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B(Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 12% MBE and 10% WBE participation.

Additional Backup Information

In the mid to late 1970s the idea to create a Mexican American Cultural Center ("Center") was conceived by artists, students and community activists. Through their efforts, the City decided to support such a facility and in 1986 the City Council appointed a task force to develop a concept for the Center. In 1989 Council adopted a resolution designating land owned by the City at 600 River Street as the future site for the Center. As part of Proposition No. 4 on the November 1998 bond ballot, Austin voters approved bond authorization for the Center.

The Center is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Mexican American Cultural Arts and Heritage. Through education and community participation, the center fosters a meaningful understanding and appreciation of Chicano, Native American, and Latino cultures, with their respective artistic expressions.

In 2000 City Council selected CasaBella Architects and its joint venture partner, Del Campo & Maru to develop the original Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Master Plan. The firm was selected as the top-ranked firm through a competitive Qualifications-Based Selection process to perform the original master plan. CasaBella Architects also oversaw the subsequent design and construction of Phase I of the Center, which was completed in 2007. CasaBella and its joint venture partner, Del Campo & Maru designed the Center to be highly energy efficient utilizing green/sustainable concepts. Also, the project was designed to protect the environmentally sensitive Town Lake/Waller Creek site.

Since the adoption of the original Master Plan, there have been several developments that necessitate a new master plan be developed prior to moving forward with any subsequent design phases. These developments include:

- Rezoning of Rainey Street from Single Family to Central Business District;
- Mexican American Cultural Center property becoming dedicated parkland;
- Additional City owned properties became included as part of the Mexican American Cultural Center property, and
- Programming changes at the Mexican American Cultural Center that provide better opportunities to meet community needs.

Major elements to be addressed in the new master plan include:

- Buildings, programming and phasing;
- Plaza improvements;
- Building and site circulation, including how visitors interact with the facility;
- Design to integrate the waterfront and trail into the overall site design;
- Utilities including water, electricity, sanitary, and planning for future utility needs;
- Landscaping; and
- Design of new parkland and "La Gran Entrada" or grand entrance.

The new design and master plan's vision will be reflective of the site's current conditions, context, programming needs and community desires. Due to the CasaBella's experience and expertise with the Center, the community, and their demonstrated competence and qualifications determined through their initial selection through the City's Qualifications-Based Selection process, the Parks and Recreation Department believes that CasaBella is the most qualified provider to develop the new master plan.

This request allows for the development of a professional service agreement with Casabella Architects based on their selection as the top-ranked firm through a competitive Qualifications-Based Selection process for the original master plan. Casabella will perform design services for the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Master Plan, including design development for two parcels of parkland recently added to the campus.

Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with Casabella, negotiations with that firm will

cease and a Request for Qualifications procurement of design services will be initiated.

This is not a time sensitive item; however, work on the master plan update cannot commence if this recommended action is not approved.