

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jill Ramirez, Chair & Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission Members
FROM: Rick Hernandez, Chair, ESB-MACC
DATE: May 24, 2017
RE: ESB-MACC Budget Request

I am writing to revise my request for consideration that I provided at your March 22, 2017 meeting regarding city budget considerations for the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center in the next fiscal year. Previously I asked that you support the Parks and Recreation Department's budget recommendation and request an additional \$20,000 for additional security staff. That security staff was recently provided to the MACC.

As you know we have been going through a master planning process over the last year. Since your March 22nd meeting things have progressed significantly. Therefore, I would like to revise my request for your consideration.

Since we last spoke the City let the contract with CasaBella Architects to begin the predesign phase for the Master Plan completion. We are calling the process MÁSMACC! This phase will extend through April 2018, after which the Schematic Phase will begin. The Pre-design phase is being paid for from funds derived from our leasing of 64 Rainey Street to Sackman Enterprises to use as a staging area in the development of the 70 Rainey condominiums.

We do not currently have the funds for the Schematic phase of the project. Therefore, I am asking the HLQLRAC to please consider requesting an additional \$200,000 on behalf of the ESB- MACC in the upcoming fiscal year. The funds would be utilized as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Schematic Phase of ESB-MACC Master Plan (to begin in late Sprint 2018) | \$ 175,000 |
| Development of a temporary Pocket Park at 64 Rainey (Upon completion of 70 Rainey Condominiums)* | 25,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 200,000 |

* Because the MACC will undergo a construction project upon the completion of its Masterplan, it is likely that we too will need to utilize 64 Rainey as a staging area. As such, a "temporary" solution to landscaping and manicuring the area is required. The completion of 70 Rainey is scheduled for the first quarter of 2018.

Under separate cover I will send you a copy of the calendar for the Master Plan process. There are a series of focus meetings and public forums that will occur to gather information that will inform the final Master Plan. I encourage each of you to attend as many of those meetings as possible to ensure that the results truly reflect the wishes of the collective community. Also there is a website for MÁSMACC! that has been developed and can be found at

https://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/Planning_and_Development/Project_Background_and_Fact_Sheet.pdf. Here you will be able to keep up with our progress as well as complete a survey that CasaBella will be using to gather information. Please share it with anyone who has an interest in the MACC.

Finally, I would like to request that you continue to support the Mayor's concept of expanding the Hotel Occupancy Tax and the inclusion of the completion of the MACC in those discussions and ultimate disbursements.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ricardo Hernandez, Chair
Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
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