

22 Heritage Tourism Division within the Economic Development Department; (3) establish
23 two distinct, separate funding allocations for city departments/initiatives and the Heritage
24 Tourism Grant; (4) develop a citywide heritage tourism plan; (5) expand eligible applicants
25 to include private property owners; (6) expand eligible project types to include planning,
26 education, and marketing projects as well as capital projects; and (7) remove the current
27 \$59,000 cap on grant awards; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the City budget process provides a transparent process for the
29 allocation of funds to city departments, programs, and initiatives, which will include HPF-
30 funded expenditures; and

31 **WHEREAS**, for nearly two decades the Heritage Grant Program has been
32 administered by Visit Austin, which will cease administration of the program by the end
33 of 2018; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the City Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposes one
35 position in the Economic Development Department to manage the HPF, which includes
36 the Heritage Grant Program and HPF-funded city expenditures; and

37 **WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Department and other departments have
38 demonstrated the need for millions of dollars of capital and operating expenditures eligible
39 for Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue under Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code; and

40 **WHEREAS**, for the past two heritage grant cycles, applications requesting a total

41 of more than \$500,000 have been received for funding totaling \$250,000 from nonprofit
42 organizations only; and

43 **WHEREAS**, heritage grants in Fall 2018 will be reviewed by a panel consisting of
44 Visit Austin staff, hotel and lodging industry representatives, the Historic Landmark
45 Commission Grants Committee, and staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and
46 Historic Preservation Office; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

48 The City Manager is directed to initiate the following recommendations of the
49 Visitor Impact Task Force and the Heritage Grant Working Group related to the Historic
50 Preservation Fund:

- 51 1. Allocate \$2 million to the Heritage Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2019;
- 52
- 53 2. Expand the eligible applicants for heritage grants per the recommendations of the
- 54 Heritage Grant Working Group;
- 55
- 56 3. Expand eligible projects for heritage grants to include capital projects and planning,
- 57 educational, and marketing projects;
- 58
- 59 4. Remove the \$59,000 cap on individual grant awards, with requests in excess of
- 60 \$250,000 requiring substantial justification; and
- 61

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63 That the City Manager shall take immediate steps to expand the current grant review
64 panel to include representatives from various city departments with knowledge of the grant
65 program, including staff from Economic Development, the Parks and Recreation
66 Department and the Historic Preservation Office; and

67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

68 That the City Manager shall provide recommendations for HPF-funded city
69 expenditures to the City Council for action by October 18, 2018.

70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

71 That the City Manager will provide quarterly reports to the Audit and Finance
72 Committee on the disbursements of grants from the Heritage Grant Fund and shall report
73 to the full Council during a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council in June 2019.

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77 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2018 **ATTEST:** _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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