



**RCA  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 3  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 04/01/2004  
PAGE: 1 of 2**

**SUBJECT:** Approve a resolution in support of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2006, and authorizing the negotiation and execution of an agreement with WCIT 2006, Inc. for the City to provide \$1,000,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to WCIT 2006, Inc. and to accept from WCIT 2006, Inc. an assignment of a United States Department of Housing and Urban Economic Development Initiative grant in the amount \$400,000 for infrastructure improvements to the City Convention Center, in preparation for the World Congress on Information Technology conference to be held in Austin in May 2006.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding in the amount of \$400,000 is available through Economic Development Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funding for \$1,000,000 in cash and in-kind contributions will be included in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Proposed Budget, and in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Proposed Budget.

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING** Economic Growth and **DIRECTOR'S**  
**DEPARTMENT:** Redevelopment Services **AUTHORIZATION:** Sue Edwards

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Edwards, Director, EGRSO; John Stephens, Acting Assistant City Manager

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** N/A

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** Reviewed by the Council Committee on Telecommunication Infrastructure.

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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Austin has been selected as the site to host the 15th biennial World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in May 2006. The WCIT is the flagship event of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance, a consortium of 50 international IT organizations with membership representing over 90% of the world's IT market. WCIT is the world's premier technology forum and will be attended by global leaders from business, government, and academia from all over the world. This event is estimated to have a direct economic benefit of \$44 million to Austin and to Texas, will generate nearly \$2 million in new local and State sales tax revenue, and will provide Austin and Texas with extensive media exposure valued at nearly \$10 million. This event will provide opportunities for local technology businesses and will enhance Austin's recruitment and retention of technology firms. An additional legacy of this conference will be a permanent wireless infrastructure for the Austin Convention Center.

WCIT 2006, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation, is the host organization charged with organizing, planning, and promoting this event. The State of Texas has committed \$1 million in cash and \$500,000 in in-kind contributions to WCIT 2006. WCIT 2006 has received a \$400,000 Economic Development



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Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to be used for infrastructure improvements to the Austin Convention Center in preparation for the WCIT (the "HUD Grant").

Under the proposed contract, WCIT 2006 will assign the HUD Grant to the City of Austin in exchange for a commitment from the City of Austin to provide \$1 million of cash and in-kind contributions to WCIT 2006. 50% of the City's commitment may be made in the form of in-kind contributions over the next two years in preparation for the 2006 WCIT conference.

The City Manager will prepare a schedule of the cash contributions and in-kind expenditures to be funded or incurred by the City related to WCIT 2006 for inclusion in the budget submitted to Council.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 04**

**WHEREAS**, Austin has been selected as the site to host the 15th biennial World Congress on Information Technology in May 2006 (WCIT 2006); and

**WHEREAS**, WCIT 2006 is the flagship global forum of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance, a consortium of 53 international Information Technology organizations with membership representing over 90% of the world's IT market; and

**WHEREAS**, WCIT 2006 is the world's premier technology forum and will be attended by global leaders from business, government, and education; and

**WHEREAS**, this conference is estimated to have a total direct economic benefit of \$44 million to Texas of which nearly \$2 million will be generated in new local and State sales tax revenue and extensive media exposure valued at \$10 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the legacy impact of this global forum will provide opportunities for local technology businesses and will enhance Austin's recruitment and retention of technology firms; and

**WHEREAS**, additional legacies of this forum will be a permanent

wireless infrastructure for the Austin Convention Center; and

**WHEREAS**, WCIT 2006, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation, is the host organization charged with organizing, planning, and promoting this event; and

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Congress has appropriated the sum of \$400,000 as an Economic Development Initiative from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to be used by for infrastructure improvements in preparation for WCIT 2006 (the “HUD Grant”); and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Texas has committed \$1 million in cash and \$500,000 of in-kind contributions to WCIT 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, WCIT 2006 wishes to assign the HUD Grant to the City of Austin in exchange for a commitment from the City of Austin to provide \$1 million of cash and in-kind contributions to WCIT 2006 (the “City Commitment”); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin wishes to accept the assignment of the HUD Grant and make the City Commitment to WCIT 2006; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the City Manager negotiate and execute of an agreement with WCIT 2006, Inc. for the City to provide \$1,000,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to the World Congress on Information Technology 2006 conference to be held in Austin in May 2006, up to 50% of which shall be allowed to be made in the form of in-kind contributions over the next two years, and to accept from WCIT 2006, Inc. an assignment of a United States Department of Housing and Urban Economic Development Initiative grant in the amount \$400,000 for infrastructure improvements to the City Convention Center, in preparation for the WCIT 2006 conference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the City Manager prepare a schedule of the cash contributions and in-kind expenditures to be funded or incurred by the City pursuant to the City Commitment to WCIT 2006, and to include such amounts in budgets submitted to Council for its approval; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the City Council declare its wholehearted support for the WCIT 2006 conference, and directs the City Manager to facilitate the staging of this event at the Austin Convention Center.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2004

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley A. Brown

City Clerk

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