

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	31699	Agenda Number	11.
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Meeting Date:	4/17/2014	Department:	Finance
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement for development and construction of new cultural facilities for public use funded in part with bond funds with the Film Society of Austin, Inc. (Austin Film Society), a Texas non-profit organization, for the City improvements and renovations to the Austin Studios facilities; and approve an ordinance waiving certain requirements of City Code Chapter 14 to authorize Austin Film Society to name buildings subject to ratification by council and areas within the buildings subject to review by the City Manager or his designee.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Budget of the Economic Development Department. Funding for future appropriation of \$3,400,000 is contingent upon approval in future budgets and will come from Proposition 18 of the 2012 Bond Program.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	On May 9, 2013, City Council amendment the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Economic Development Department Capital Budget to increase appropriation by \$100,000 for the Austin Studios project. On September 9, 2013, City Council approved \$1,900,000 in additional funding as part of the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Economic Development Department Capital Budget.
For More Information:	Kimberly Springer, Deputy Budget Officer (512) 974-2924.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

On November 6, 2012, Austin voters approved Proposition 18 which authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds to be used for various projects, including the planning, designing, engineering, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping library, museum, and cultural arts facilities. Included in the cultural arts facilities funds is \$5.4 million for improvements to Austin Studios. These are City-owned facilities adjacent to the Mueller redevelopment site that are leased and operated by the Film Society of Austin, Inc., (Austin Film Society) as part of a public-private partnership.

Pursuant to a lease agreement dated July 22, 2009 and amended by the Lease Premises Reconfiguration Amendment dated March 1, 2013, between the City of Austin and the Austin Film Society, the Austin Film Society occupies and operates the Austin Studios complex for multi-media productions and for educational and job training purposes. In

accordance with the lease, and with the City's written consent, Austin Film Society may construct improvements on the property. These improvements are owned by the City.

This agreement will allow the City of Austin to provide funding for capital improvements such as the renovation of the former National Guard Armory, infrastructure improvements, security, drainage, accessibility, and vehicular connection. These improvements will help Austin retain its favorable position in the film industry.

The Austin Film Society (AFS) was founded in 1985 by local filmmaker Richard Linklater, and its mission is to empower our community to MAKE, WATCH and LOVE film and creative media. Over the years, the organization has achieved numerous milestones, including the following:

- AFS Grants have awarded \$1.35 million in cash to 385 emerging filmmakers residing in the state of Texas. The grant has supported the production of groundbreaking works that have launched significant careers in the arts.
- AFS curates 200+ films each year in its arthouse theater, AFS at the Marchesa. The programming aims to educate audiences, expose them to new works, and nurture our community's passion for the cinema.
- Productions at Austin Studios, a 20-acre film production facility operated by AFS, have generated \$1.35 billion in economic impact since 2001.
- AFS Film Club offers after-school workshops in 16 under-resourced public schools with class projects premiering at local theaters.
- Summer @ Austin Studios camps offer tailored filmmaking classes, while Austin Studios tours welcome more than 300 students each year.
- The AFS Internship program has trained 279 interns since 2001 and helped place 623 professionals in jobs on films, television shows and commercials.