



Item OT1.20 Digital Records Archivist

This proposal would:

- Invest \$85,414 in salary and \$1,000 in one-time support needs to fund an Austin Public Library request for a digital records archivist position.

The Austin History Center (AHC) preserves Austin's unique history and makes that history accessible to the public through presentations and other programs.

- AHC is the city's official archive; it maintains a rich collection of city records and historical documents, and has expert staff to support exhibits, programs, and research by the public.
- During FY15 AHC recorded nearly 44,000 customer visits and processed over 117,000 record items.¹

AHC does not have the resources it needs to adequately manage historically important digital records.

- As the City of Austin creates more electronic records, it is vital that the AHC have the resources needed to manage these records. Without those resources, Austin could lose important historical records.
- To date, AHC has identified a massive amount of unprocessed records, including about 270 gigabytes of 'born digital' records (records that were first produced in digital form) and about 20 terabytes of digitized records.²
- City staff have identified the need for a dedicated position to manage these important assets in each of the past seven budget cycles, but Council has not yet made this important investment.²
- Austin has seen many milestones and significant decisions in recent years, including the transition to the new 10-1 Council. It is critical to preserve these records for historians and future generations.

This proposal could help AHC preserve the history of Austin for future generations.

- This proposal would better position AHC to properly and effectively manage these records in order to preserve them for future generations and make them accessible to researchers.
- This initiative is supported by former Austin Mayors Lee Cooke, Frank Cooksey, Carole Keeton, Lee Leffingwell, Ron Mullen, Bruce Todd, and Will Wynn.
- The Library Commission unanimously recommended that Council approve this archivist position.³

¹ City of Austin, ePerformance Measures.

² Austin History Center Association.

³ Library Commission Recommendation 20160824-5b