

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

2 **WHEREAS**, cultural centers are beacons of the community that promote
3 culture, art and learning; and

4 **WHEREAS**, cultural centers provide a variety of affordable and
5 accessible cultural arts activities and resources for all ages; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin should promote the coordination and
7 partnerships between the City of Austin and private and non-profit organizations in
8 order to provide more affordable cultural and recreational events and programming
9 at cultural centers; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has three cultural centers including the Emma
11 S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, the George Washington Carver
12 Museum and Cultural Center and the Asian American Resource Center; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the George Washington Carver Museum shares their current site
14 with the Carver Branch Public Library, which provides additional resources for the
15 community; and

16 **WHEREAS**, other centers operated by non-profits or third party entities that
17 provide art and cultural experiences or youth programming, and are funded by City
18 dollars and/or City land, are: the Mexic-Arte Museum and the Millennium Youth
19 Entertainment Complex; and

20 **WHEREAS**, City of Austin residents have in the past approved millions in
21 bond dollars for renovations and improvements of these; and

22 **WHEREAS**, most recently the City of Austin residents voted to approve
23 Proposition B: Libraries, Museums & Cultural Arts Facilities through the 2018 bond

24 process that allocated \$56.5 million dollars for renovations and improvements at
25 these facilities as well as \$25 million dollars for the Dougherty Arts Center
26 Replacement Facility; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the City has not conducted a systemic review of the City of
28 Austin’s cultural centers operations and programming in the past to ensure they meet
29 the needs of the community; and

30 **WHEREAS**, audits can serve as a tool to help ensure program effectiveness
31 and protect taxpayer investments in community resources; and

32 **WHEREAS**, an audit could identify unmet needs to help inform future
33 investments in programs and services; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

35 The City Auditor is directed to amend the City Auditor’s 2019 Audit Plan to
36 include an audit of the City of Austin Cultural Centers: Emma S. Barrientos Mexican
37 American Cultural Center, the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural
38 Center and the Asian American Resource Center, the Carver Branch Public Library,
39 the Mexic-Arte Museum and the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. The
40 audit’s objective should seek answers to questions such as:

- 41 1. Are the cultural centers performing and serving the community
42 effectively?
- 43
- 44 2. How often and how many community requests to use the spaces in each
45 facility are received and are granted?
- 46
- 47 3. What is the current and projected available space, type of space, and
48 program areas to be used by community members at each facility?
- 49

- 50 4. What is the number, type, and percentage utilization of rental space and
51 current attendance at each facility?
52
- 53 5. Are rental spaces affordable and accessible to the public? If there are
54 barriers to access to these rental spaces, what are the barriers?
55
- 56 6. Is the community satisfied with the services provided and do these services
57 and facilities currently meet community needs?
58
- 59 7. Do these facilities provide programming that is culturally appropriate and
60 oriented to the community it serves?
61
- 62 8. Does the facility engage in and help foster multi-cultural enrichment and
63 experiences with other cultural centers and their communities?
64
- 65 9. Does the facility provide access to affordable spaces for individuals and
66 organizations to create multi-cultural opportunities for the community?
67
- 68 10. Are staffing levels adequate in order to provide a comprehensive service
69 at the cultural center facilities?
70
- 71 11. Are staffing salaries and benefits package at each center competitive
72 compared to other facilities?
73
- 74 12. Has the City taken appropriate steps to ensure that the staff available at
75 these facilities are culturally sensitive to the community the facility serves?
76
- 77 13. Are there performance measures in place to ensure productive
78 management of these assets including reviews of leadership and staff?
79
- 80 14. Are current fee schedules and revenue and expenses appropriate to the
81 operations of each facility?
82
- 83 15. Are there national best practices in governance, operation, and
84 programming of cultural centers that the City of Austin should consider as
85 it manages and expands its cultural assets?
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87

88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

89 The City Auditor is further directed to present a final report at the first Council
90 meeting in January 2020.

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92 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2019 **ATTEST:** _____

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Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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