

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, a July 2020, survey by the Hobby School of Public Affairs found that music and arts venues, restaurants and bars are the Austin businesses most vulnerable and susceptible to permanent closure; and

WHEREAS, according to an August 17, 2020, memo from City Staff, the pandemic has exacerbated the significant need for, inequitable access to, and the destabilizing of the existing fragile childcare sector. An estimated 50% of childcare programs nationwide are at risk of going out of business due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, childcare should be viewed as important infrastructure for our community and will be necessary for our city to recover from the pandemic. High quality childcare that is accessible to everyone in our community helps the economy by enabling parents to receive training and to participate in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, in Austin, our creative spaces and places for social gathering are also important civic infrastructure and help define our city's character and brand; and

WHEREAS, the creative industry will not function without the workers who make performances and venue operations possible, such as musicians, sound and lighting technicians, stagehands, designers, artisans, and other personal service professionals affected by the pandemic economic fallout; and

WHEREAS, small businesses in these industries owned and operated by members of historically marginalized communities have been disproportionately negatively impacted; and

WHEREAS, due to this importance, the city has already allocated directly and indirectly some funding to these sectors and their workers during the pandemic as previously directed through Council Resolutions 20200326-091, 20200326-088, 20200409-086, 20200423-040, 20200507-023, 20200521-095, 20200521-096, and 2020-0604-040; and

WHEREAS, city staff and stakeholders have identified additional funding needed to help these sectors survive during this time, together with the people, entities, and businesses working in them; and

WHEREAS, the health and vibrancy of these sectors are important to Austin and are a priority in sustaining our quality of life and our economic recovery efforts; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

City Manager is directed to broadly explore and identify funding options to provide financial and equivalent assistance to support the sustainability of the most vulnerable and at-risk live music and arts venues, restaurants, bars, ~~and~~ childcare services, and the workers who sustain those industries. The City Manager is to explore and identify all available public and private funding options, including local, state, and federal sources,

non-profit and philanthropic, and to consider legal limitations, impact on relevant financial policies, and the opportunity costs associated with each option. This exploration and identification of funding options should include, but not be limited to, the following listed sources. The Council wants to understand the associated possibilities, legalities and practicalities to be better able to consider employing one or more of the following options:

- Additional Federal assistance;
- State assistance;
- County assistance;
- General Fund Reserves;
- Certificates of Obligation;
- Contractual Obligations;
- Sales or other tax revenue;
- Convention Center reserves, interest or other earned funding;
- Other departmental funds, programs, services, or capital projects approved in the Fiscal Year 20-21, or prior budgets, as appropriate, that might be re-prioritized, postponed, financed or accomplished thru alternate or outside funding; and
- Property tax abatements and/or payment plans.

The City Manager shall also identify the minimum funding, loans and/or abatements needed to have a significant impact on maintaining these sectors for our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore and identify additional ways that the city can provide support to these sectors in addition to the funding and financing options addressed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to begin now to plan for the distribution of any federal or state funding that might become available and directed by City Council for the most vulnerable in these sectors so that assistance may be quickly administered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with the Equity Office to ensure programs are funding businesses and community assets in a way that addresses historic systemic inequities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

These options and recommendations shall be presented to Council at a work session (special called if necessary) as soon as ready but no later than September 29, 2020.

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ADOPTED: _____, 2020 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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