



## Recommendation for Action

**File #: 22-1506, Agenda Item #: 8.**

**3/24/2022**

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the agreement with the Greater Austin Performing Arts Center to provide additional grants to musicians and industry professionals who applied to the Austin Music Disaster Relief Grant in the amount of \$162,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,692,000.

### **Lead Department**

Economic Development.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$140,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan and funding in the amount of \$22,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund Emergency Reserve.

### **Prior Council Action:**

April 9, 2020 - Approved Resolution No. 20200409-086 directing the City Manager to establish an "Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund" to provide emergency relief for Austin's most vulnerable musicians who are in need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and related government actions taken to halt the spread of the disease.

April 23, 2020 - Amended Ordinance No. 20200423-067, the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve to designate \$1,500,000 for the Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund

May 20, 2021 - Approved Resolution No. 20210520-060 directing the City Manager to explore funding in an amount not to exceed \$25 million from the American Rescue Plan, General Revenue, and other city, state, and federal funding sources, to stabilize the Austin cultural arts and music communities as they combat the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri.

June 10, 2021 - Approved Resolution No. 20210610-077 adopting the American Rescue Plan Act Spending Framework and authorizing the City Manager to make the necessary allocations.

June 10, 2021 - Approved Resolution No. 20210610-078 amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Financial Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$49,400,000 from the U.S. Department of Treasury, available through the American Rescue Plan Act, for municipal purposes related to the Coronavirus disease outbreak and recovery efforts.

December 2, 2022 - Approved Ratify a contract with Greater Austin Performing Arts Center to deploy the Austin Music Disaster Relief Grant (AMDRG) program in response to the music industry creative workers facing hardships due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the amount of \$2,530,000.00.

### **For More Information:**

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**Additional Backup Information:**

This item requests Council to amend the contract with the Greater Austin Performing Arts Center (dba The Long Center) to reallocate unused funds from the Live Music Venue Preservation fund to fulfill a deficit of funds needed to satisfy applicant response the AMDRG. This program was created in response to the music industry creative workers facing hardships due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Long Center has scored the third round of the AMDRG program as identified in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Services included utilizing the City of Austin Portal application system to best streamline the evaluation and scoring tasks according to City program guidelines, providing a final list of eligible and scored applicants for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 AMDRG to the City of Austin, and issuing checks to AMDRG awardees.

Initial funds allocated for the AMDRG allowed for a total of 1,150 awards. The program saw over 3,000 applications. Economic Development Department is requesting a contract amendment to reallocate \$162,000 from the Live Music Preservation Fund to the AMDRG. Funding sources include \$140,000 declined by grant recipients (U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan) and an additional \$22,000 from unused technical assistance funds (General Fund Emergency Reserve). These reallocated funds will allow 81 additional awards to applicants.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Culture & Lifelong Learning.