

RESOLUTION NO. 20220609-068

WHEREAS, the Austin History Center, as the local history collection of the Austin Public Library, provides our growing community with information about the rich and culturally diverse history and about current events of Austin and Travis County; and

WHEREAS, since 1955, the Austin History Center has grown from a few file drawers housed in the 1933 Central Library, to a renowned archival collection filling every corner of the Faulk Library Building, a beautiful Italian Renaissance Revival building that is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark, a State Antiquities Landmark, an Austin City Landmark, and also is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Travis County archives are currently housed in a spatially distant location not easily accessible to the public and needing updated archival accommodations; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of the Travis County archives to the Faulk Library Building with the Austin History Center archives would combine the diverse historical records of Austin and Travis County and provide not only an archival research center, but a facility to benefit the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the public approval of a 2018 bond package specifically to repair and update the Faulk Building on the Campus for the expansion of the current Austin History Center has resulted in a meaningful opportunity to plan for expanded community use, programming, and collection growth of the Austin History Center showcasing Austin's rich and diverse history; and

WHEREAS, a study and report by the Gensler design and architecture firm commissioned in 2018 by the Austin Public Library recommends that the best use of the Faulk Library Building is for an expanded Austin History Center providing additional space for diverse programming and exhibits so that all of Austin's citizens may be aware of the scope, usefulness, and significance of our archives; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council supports the re-dedication of the current Faulk Library Building for the use of both the Austin History Center and the Travis County archives to create an expanded History Campus for all of Travis County; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

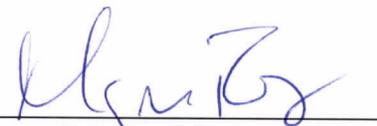
The Council directs the City Manager to explore the use of the Faulk Library Building as a shared archive facility for the City of Austin and Travis County, and to work with Travis County staff to assess cost sharing and logistics, while ensuring that the combined archives do not infringe upon or detract from the planned Austin History Center space.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return to the City Council with recommendations including the costs and feasibility by September 30, 2022.

ADOPTED: June 9, 2022

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk