

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Malcolm Matthews, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Melissa B. Vossmer; Finance; Management and Budget; Legal; File

SUBJECT: Capital Improvements to the Witte Museum enabling it to present an exhibit from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

DATE: October 24, 2002

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager or her designee to grant to the Witte Museum funding in the amount of \$400,000 for capital improvements to upgrade exhibition space to enable the Witte to present "American Originals: Treasures from the National Archives."

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

From May 31-September 1, 2003, the Witte Museum will host a critically acclaimed exhibit, "American Originals: Treasures from the National Archives," which contains selections of the nation's most significant and compelling historical documents including the Emancipation Proclamation, Louisiana Purchase Treaty and President Kennedy's Inaugural Address. Not since 1949, when the Freedom Train took documents across the country, has a comparable collection traveled beyond the National Archives of Washington, D.C. The Witte Museum is the only museum in the Southwest to host this exhibit ensuring that it will draw visitors from throughout that area.

The Witte's ability to receive this exhibit is contingent on improvements to the HVAC system and enhancements to the lighting and security in the exhibition area where the documents will be displayed. It is anticipated that this work will need to be completed by the end of this November. All this work must be done to strict specifications established by the National Archives. Once the improvements are completed, they must be successfully tested for several months prior to the arrival of the artifacts. Once these improvements are in place, the Witte will be able to secure other prominent exhibitions that will draw additional Cultural Tourists to San Antonio.

As part of the budget approval on September 19, 2002, City Council allocated \$400,000 to this project from the \$4.87 million that originally had been held for hosting responsibilities for the Pan Am Games.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance is consistent with the City's goal of attracting visitors to San Antonio and supporting Cultural Tourism initiatives as an economic development strategy.

FISCAL IMPACT

This ordinance authorizes the use of \$400,000 from the fund balance left from the Pan Am games for the purposes of making capital improvements to the Witte Museum – a cultural facility owned by the City of San Antonio. Improvements will remain the property of the City.

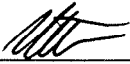
There is no impact on the General Fund.

COORDINATION

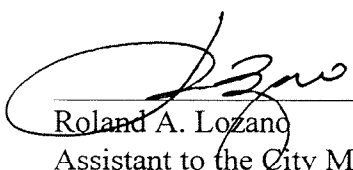
This item was coordinated with the City Manager's Office, Cultural Arts Board, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Asset Management, Finance and Legal.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

A Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form is not required.

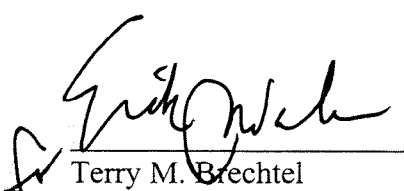


Malcolm Matthews
Director of Parks and Recreation



Roland A. Lozano
Assistant to the City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager