



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 12/06/2022

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH THE FORT WORTH MUSEUM
OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY FOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING**

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve a contract with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History for capital project funding.

BACKGROUND

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is preparing a major renovation to the Omni IMAX Theatre (Omni). The Omni, when opened in 1983, utilized what was then state-of-the-art IMAX projection technology. The theatre was highly successful over the next 37 years, drawing in over 10 million visitors throughout that period of time. The theatre was closed in March of 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. For various reasons, including the deteriorated state of the IMAX projector and its supporting electronic equipment along with the theatre itself requiring an overdue modernization, the theatre today remains shuttered.

The planned renovation will replace the IMAX projection equipment with a state-of-the-art digital LED dome. In addition, the renovation will include the modernization of the entire interior of the theatre in accordance with "Americans with Disabilities Act" (ADA) requirements. This modernization will also upgrade the theatre's infrastructure, including heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical systems, mechanical systems, new flooring, wider and more comfortable theatre seats, and a new roof. Upon completion of the renovation, Tarrant County school districts will have the ability to select from the vast digital library that will be available to the museum in order to pair field trip documentaries with current course studies. Reconstruction of the Omni is scheduled to begin in January 2023 and be completed by Summer of 2024.

Upon approval of this contract, the County will reimburse the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History for construction expenses related to the Omni IMAX Theatre renovation project in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00. The Commissioners Court of Tarrant County finds that this investment brings increased economic development and investments into the greater Tarrant County area; provides increased educational opportunities for the residents of Tarrant County; and serves a direct public purpose and public good for the residents of Tarrant County.

This contract has been approved as to form by the Criminal District Attorney's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 is available in 566030/10000-2023/5920100000.

SUBMITTED BY:	Administrator's Office	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Kristen Camareno
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