



City Council Report

Date: November 17, 2025
To: City Council
From: Candace Cannistraro, Deputy City Manager
Subject: Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a third addendum to the agreement with Mesa Historical Society for a contribution to the renovation of the auditorium on the Lehi Campus. Council District 1

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to consider staff's recommendation to enter into a third addendum to the annual agreement with Mesa Historical Society (MHS) for City of Mesa contribution to the renovation of the historic auditorium located at 2345 North Horne on the Lehi Campus.

Background

The Mesa Historical Society owns and operates the Mesa Historical Museum at 2345 North Horne. The museum occupies the old Lehi School, the oldest standing school building in Mesa, built in 1913. The City of Mesa deeded this property to the Mesa Historical Society in 1988 for use as a museum.

The Mesa Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of the history and heritage of the City of Mesa and the region. A museum dedicated to the City of Mesa furthers the vision, mission, and goal of supporting arts and culture in the community, and in particular the City's belief that the advancement of heritage through the utilization of heritage resources is essential to the fabric of the community.

Mesa Historical Society has been in the process of a large capital campaign to renovate the historical auditorium into the Arizona Baseball Museum. The renovated facility will give residents and visitors a place to experience the history of Arizona baseball year-round as well as offering a low-cost venue for community celebrations and performances. Included in the renovation project is the replacement of six air conditioning units that have reached the end of their useful life expectancy and the associated roof work required. Maricopa County provided the funding for the units, and the City of Mesa provided funding for the roof work as well as in-kind labor for the installation of the units.

During the renovation additional items were discovered that also needed repair: floor refinishing, ceiling framework, exhibit materials (protection supplies, and storyboards), and painting of the interior and exterior of the auditorium. This third addendum provides the funding for this final scope.

Discussion

The City of Mesa's annual agreement with the Mesa Historical Society was effective on July 1, 2024, and administratively renewed for a second year effective on July 1, 2025. The first addendum to the agreement provided for the use of Maricopa County funds to purchase six air conditioning units on behalf of MHS and for the City of Mesa to provide in-kind labor for the installation of the units, as well as a contribution of \$35,000 toward the interior and exterior painting. The second addendum to the agreement reallocated the \$35,000 from painting to roof repairs.

This third addendum to the agreement increases the contribution toward the auditorium renovation by \$85,000 to cover floor refinishing, ceiling framework, exhibit materials (protection supplies, and storyboards), and painting of the interior and exterior of the auditorium.

The renovation project is predominately funded through private donations. The contribution from the city will provide gap funding to allow the project to be completed in a timely manner. The original agreement requires MHS to provide two community events per year in return for a quarterly contribution to the museum's operational expenses. This third addendum requires an additional two community events for a total of four events per year.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to enter into this third addendum to the agreement. The work outlined would need to be funded by private donations to be completed. The continuity of construction would be interrupted, and the opening of the renovated auditorium would be delayed.

Fiscal Impact

The City increased contribution of \$85,000 is funded through the General Fund.

Coordinated With

The City Attorney's Office.