

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	National Park Service, Save America’s Treasures Grant – Liberty Theatre Cultural Center
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to submit an application and if approved, accept funds from the National Park Service for a Save America’s Treasures Grant for the Liberty Theatre. The grant amount requested is \$750,000 with a 50% local match. Matching funds are available in the 1999 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax and Other Local Option Sales Tax.
INITIATED BY:	City Manager’s Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to submit an application and if approved, accept funds from the National Park Service for a Save America’s Treasures Grant for the Liberty Theatre. The grant amount requested is up to \$750,000, or otherwise awarded, with a 50% local match.

Background: On November 29, 2022, City Council approved the acceptance of the Liberty Theatre, located at 821 8th Ave. This was a privately owned, historic African American theater that has not had any significant renovations in over 25 years and is deteriorating. The Board of the Liberty Theatre Cultural Center requested the city consider accepting the theater so various funding sources could be utilized to restore the facility. The Liberty Theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984. Its mission is to promote African American heritage, cultural and intellectual activities for the benefit and enjoyment of all who live in and visit the Columbus, Georgia area.

Analysis: The property has roof leaks, water damage, outdated lighting and sound system, requires upgraded HVAC, electrical, fire protection systems, and other interior and exterior renovations.

Financial Considerations: The grant amount requested is \$750,000 with a 50% local match. Matching funds are available in the 1999 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax and Other Local Option Sales Tax.

Legal Considerations: The City of Columbus is eligible for this grant and if awarded and accepted, will be bound by the requirements of the grant contract.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to submit an application and if approved, accept funds from the National Park Service for a Save America’s Treasures Grant for the Liberty Theatre. The grant amount requested is up to \$750,000, or otherwise awarded, with a 50% local match.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A SAVE AMERICA’S TREASURES GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LIBERTY THEATRE, AND TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD.

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the acceptance of the Liberty Theatre located at 821 8th Ave.;

WHEREAS, the Liberty Theatre has been privately owned and not had any significant renovations in over 25 years; and,

WHEREAS, the Liberty Theatre has continued to deteriorate; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus desires to restore the historic African American theater.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

That the City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to submit an application, and if awarded, accept the Save America’s Treasures Grant from the National Park Service for \$750,000 or otherwise awarded with a 50% local match for improvements to the Liberty Theatre and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor House voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Thomas voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.
Councilor Woodson voting	_____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, Mayor