

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	National Trust for Historic Places, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant – Ma Rainey House
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to submit an application and if approved, accept funds from the National Trust for Historic Places, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant for the Ma Rainey House. The grant amount requested is \$150,000 with no local match.
INITIATED BY:	City Manager’s Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to submit an application and if approved, accept funds from the National Trust for Historic Places, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant for the Ma Rainey House. The grant amount requested is up to \$150,000, or otherwise awarded, with no local match.

Background: The Ma Rainey Home is a historical Columbus landmark honoring the legendary “Mother of Blues”, Ma Rainey. Born as Gertrude Pridgett (1886-1939) on April 26, 1886 in Columbus, GA,.

After a long career of touring and over 100 recordings with Paramount, Ma Rainey moved to her 5th Avenue home in Columbus in the early 1930’s to retire. She was inducted into several halls of fame including the Blues Foundation’s Hall of Fame in 1983, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990, the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in 1992, and the Georgia Women of Achievement in 1993.

In 2003-2004, the City of Columbus along with the Ma Rainey House Board made improvements to the home once owned by Ma Rainey. This home has been turned into a Ma Rainey Museum to include furniture, artifacts, relics, clothing, etc. belonging to Ma Rainey. This home is under the direction of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. 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 various issues such as discoloring floors, unknown odors, interior and exterior repairs, parking issues and trees pulling up the parking lot.

Financial Considerations: The grant amount requested is \$150,000 with no local match.

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 Trust for Historic Places, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant for the Ma Rainey House. The grant amount requested is up to \$150,000, or otherwise awarded, with no local match.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ACTION FUND GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE MA RAINEY

HOUSE, AND TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD.

WHEREAS, the Ma Rainey House falls under the direction of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department;

WHEREAS, the Ma Rainey House last received improvements in 2003-2004; and,

WHEREAS, the Ma Rainey House has issues and repairs that need to be addressed; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus desires to restore and/or preserve the home to keep it as a monument of Ma Rainey for all citizens to enjoy;

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, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant from the National Trust for Historic Places for \$150,000, or otherwise awarded, with no local match for improvements to the Ma Rainey House 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