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COMMUNITY/CONVENTION CENTER  
City of Sacramento  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

December 8, 1993

APPROVED  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

DEC 15 1993

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

**SUBJECT:      AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE  
SACRAMENTO MUSEUM OF HISTORY, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**LOCATION:      Old Sacramento -- District 1**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that City Council, by resolution,

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement for the development and operation of the Sacramento Museum of History, Science, and Technology.
2. Authorize the City Manager to terminate the existing agreement with Sacramento Science Center Inc. dated August 15, 1986.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Barbara Bonebrake, Management Officer  
Community & Visitor Services Department -- 264-5291

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING :      December 14, 1993**

## **SUMMARY**

This reports provides information on the consolidation of the Sacramento Science Center and the Sacramento History Museum into a single Sacramento Museum of History, Science, and Technology (SMHST) to be located in Old Sacramento. Additionally, this report requests City Council to authorize the City Manager to execute a ten-year agreement for the operation of the SMHST.

## **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION**

In February of 1993, the City Council requested the Sacramento Science Center and the Sacramento History Museum non-profit organizations to submit proposals for jointly operating the History Museum and the Science Center.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Sacramento History Museum and Sacramento Science Center**

The Sacramento History Museum first opened in 1966 in a temporary facility. In 1985, the Museum opened its doors in a new 20,000 square feet facility in Old Sacramento. In Fiscal Year 1990-91, more than 105,000 people visited the Museum. The exhibits displayed at the Museum have reflected the diversity of our community. More than 120 docents and volunteers contribute the operation of the Museum. Through their efforts, 24,000 school children tour the Museum annually.

Since 1951, the Sacramento Science Center has provided a diverse range of programs including hands-on of exhibitions, planetarium, youth classes, outreach programs for schools and community groups, teacher services, and volunteer programs. Originally, the facility was operated by private, non-profit, Sacramento Science Center Inc. The non-profit built the current facilities beginning in the 1970's. At the request of Sacramento Science Center, Inc. Board, the City executed an agreement with the non-profit corporation to operate the Center in partnership with the City in 1986.

Overall, City/County funding to the History Museum and Science Center has decreased significantly by nearly 50 percent. Joint City/County funding for the History Museum has decreased from \$532,000 in FY 1991-92 to \$269,000 in FY 1993-94. Joint City/County funding to the Science Center has also decreased from \$537,000 in FY 1991-92 to \$275,000 in FY 1993-94. Historically, the City and County funding levels have been similar for these organizations. However, for FY 1993-94, the County provided \$24,500 less in support to the History Museum and Science Center than was requested.

Both non-profit organizations, Sacramento Science Center, Inc. and the Sacramento History Museum Association, have contributed to the support and programming of these facilities.

Sacramento Museum of History, Science, and Technology

The Sacramento City Council requested the Sacramento Science Center and the Sacramento History Museum to submit proposals for operating the Sacramento History Museum and the Sacramento Science Center in February of 1993. The non-profit boards for each appointed members to a Negotiating Transition Team to develop plan to operate an innovative Sacramento Museum of History, Science, and Technology (SMHST). This team, with the assistance of a facilitator, had several meeting which were very productive. The team members were excited about the process and are pleased with the progress of this transition.

Through the transition meetings, it was mutually agreed upon that the Sacramento History Museum Association and the Sacramento Science Center, Inc. would establish one association for the benefit of the residents Sacramento community. This association will be responsible for creating a new and unique history and science institution which includes the role science in the development of Sacramento's regional history. This institution will maintain a history and science exhibition museum in Old Sacramento as well as an educational complex at Auburn Boulevard.

To facilitate the development of the Sacramento Museum of History, Science and Technology, a new Board of Trustees (Board) was established. The Board is dedicated to creating and operating more than just a facility which combines the existing Science Center and History Museum. The new institution will have a new vision and mission which preserves the best elements from the Science Center and History Museum while providing a unique experience museum guests.

A new non-profit corporation, Sacramento Museum of History, Science and Technology, Inc., was formed combining the assets and responsibilities of both organizations into one for the operation of the new institution. The existing non-profit boards for the Science Center and the History Museum will continue serve as advisory boards providing as resource information to the trustees on fundraising, programs, and membership. The new Board, which will serve for an initial term of office one year, is comprised as follows: four (4) members selected by Sacramento Science Center, Inc.; four (4) members selected by Sacramento History Museum Association; the Mayor of City of Sacramento (or appointee); the Chair of County Board of Supervisors (or appointee); and three (3) members nominated and selected by the previously listed members.

Staff has been working closely with the Board to create a comprehensive operating plan for the SMHST. This includes meeting with the Board on a scheduled basis to discuss and resolve key issues for establishing this museum such as the organizational structure and a budget model.

An operating agreement between the SMHST and the City and County is appropriate. The proposed agreement will transfer responsibility of the operation of the current History Museum and Science Center sites to the SMHST. This would terminate the existing agreement executed in 1986 between the City and Sacramento Science Center, Inc. The proposed term for the SMHST agreement is ten (10) years. The City will provide the site for the museum and only be

responsible for major building maintenance. The Board of the SMHST will be responsible for the operation and management of the facility including all operating costs. Additionally, the operating agreement would extend to the Science Center site which would be operated as an educational facility and serve as an integral part of SMHST programming. The SMHST would be responsible for all operations and maintenance of this site. The transition of these operations requires a complete reshaping of the past operations, staffing, and programming. While the transition has been successful to date, the transformation will take approximately 30 months to implement. SMHST will require consistent funding during this transition. During the respective budget processes for the City and County, SMHST will compete for funding. However, it would appreciate favorable consideration of both governing bodies during this transition period.

Staff has worked closely with the Board to develop an agreement which addresses the needs and concerns of the City and the County as well as the Board. The significant terms of the agreement are as follows:

- The term of the agreement would be for ten (10) years to operate a museum in Old Sacramento (current History Museum site) and an educational facility on Auburn Boulevard (current Science Center site).
- The City and County has committed to a basic level of funding to SMHST for this fiscal year. However, SMHST anticipates a two-year transition period and would request favorable consideration during the upcoming budget process.
- In addition to funding, the City would provide major maintenance for the museum in Old Sacramento. The SMHST would provide all maintenance for the educational facility.
- The agreement would be a partnership between the City, the County, and the SMHST Board of Trustees to provide a quality museum and educational facility for the residents and visitors of our community.
- Board of Trustees would retain the admission revenue and all revenue related to their activities to enhance operations.
- Oversight of the agreement would be provided by the Director of the Community and Visitor Services Department.
- Cooperative arrangements would be established for use of the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collections Center (SAMCC).

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The City and County have approved \$284,000 and \$260,000 respectively for FY 1993-94. It is requested that the City and County consider providing \$289,000 each in funding annually for FY 1994-95 and FY 1995-96 during their respective budget processes. The funding increase is to provide for a portion of the maintenance of the educational facility. Other City financial responsibilities include major maintenance of the museum facility at the Old Sacramento site. The SMHST will be responsible for the costs of operating and managing the museum facility.

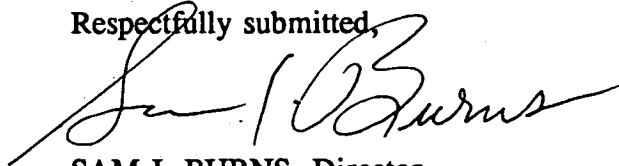
**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

Historically, the City Council and Board of Supervisors have provided funding to operations which benefit residents of both the City and County of Sacramento. Further, City funding for the SMHST operations is consistent with City Council's goals to enhance the quality of life for City residents.

**MBE/WBE EFFORTS**

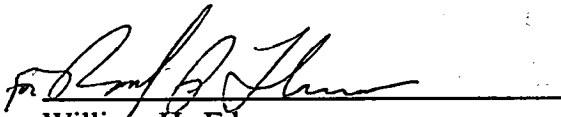
Every effort will be made to support the City's MBE/WBE goals.

Respectfully submitted,



SAM J. BURNS, Director  
Community & Visitor Services

Recommendation Approved:



William H. Edgar  
City Manager

SJB:BB:tlv

histsci.rpt

**RESOLUTION NO. 93-728**

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT  
FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SACRAMENTO MUSEUM OF HISTORY,  
SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

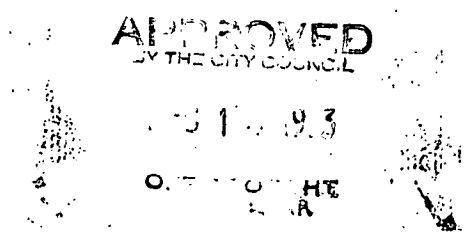
**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:**

1. That the City Manager if authorized to execute a ten-year operating agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Sacramento Museum of History, Science, and Technology; and
2. That the City Manager is authorized to terminate the existing agreement with Sacramento Science Center Inc. dated August 15, 1986.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK



**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_