



SUBJECT: Approved MOU for John Marsh Historic Trust Interpretive Center Funding Request of \$7,000

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

STAFF: Darin Gale, Assistant City Manager
Abraham Salinas, Senior Analyst

TITLE/RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the City of Brentwood ("City") and John Marsh Historic Trust ("JMHT") regarding a payment of \$7,000 towards the John Marsh Interpretive Center.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, funding for the MOU of \$7,000 would be expended from the City Manager's Contingency in the 2024/25 General Fund Operating Budget. There is sufficient available budget in the City Manager's Contingency within the General Fund for this expenditure and no budget amendment would be required. Therefore, approval of this item will have *no impact* on the projected General Fund results, which remain unchanged from the last update.

Since this request is a donation from the City of over \$1,000, per Council/Administrative Policy and Procedures for Requests for Use of City Funds, No. 10-12, it requires Council authorization

(<https://www.brentwoodca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/228/637967814972700000>).

BACKGROUND

John Marsh (1799–1856) was a significant figure in early California history, known for his roles as a physician and rancher in the Brentwood region. Marsh's residence, known as the Stone House, was completed in 1856 and is considered the first stone house in California. This Gothic Revival mansion was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.



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The John Marsh Historic Trust (JMHT) established a non-profit 501(c)3 in 1994 to preserve and restore the 7,000-square-foot Stone House. The structure sustained damage in the 1868 and 1906 earthquakes and was never fully restored.

In 2007, the California State Park and Recreation Commission designated the 3,659-acre area, including the John Marsh Stone House, as Marsh Creek State Historic Park. With support from California State Parks and the City of Brentwood, the Marsh Creek State Park General Plan and Environmental Impact Report was developed and adopted in 2012. Currently, the JMHT is managing the restoration of the Stone House and the construction of an Interpretive Center.

JOHN MARSH HISTORIC TRUST INTERPRETIVE CENTER (IC)

The Stone House is not regularly open to the public but JMHT is funding an Interpretive Center (IC) to be constructed adjacent to the historic house. Restoration of the Stone House is a long term goal of the JMHT and California State Parks. The proposed IC will provide the community with an opportunity to learn about John Marsh and the role he played in the region. With technical assistance and financial support from California State Parks, a plan has been developed that at full build out will feature a shade structure, picnic tables, restrooms, parking, and interpretive signage.

For the first phase of the project, the JMHT has allocated \$20,000, and is requesting \$7,000 from the City for this project. The City's contribution will fund the installation of interpretive panels for the IC, with construction provided by California State Parks.

Approval of the resolution authorizes the City Manager or designee to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and make minor non-substantive revisions to it in consultation with the City Attorney.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Not Applicable.

PREVIOUS ACTION

Not Applicable.

DATE OF NOTICE

Not Applicable.



ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Not Applicable.

ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)

Alternative Options to the Staff Recommendation:

1. Do not approve staff's recommendation.
2. Modify staff's recommendation.
3. Continue item with direction for staff to return with additional information.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Resolution
2. Memorandum of Understanding
3. John Marsh Historic Trust - Interpretive Center Proposal