

ORDINANCE NO. 25-197

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Huntsville established the Alabama Constitution Hall Park Board (the “Board”) on April 24, 1980 pursuant to Ordinance No. 80-112; and

WHEREAS, the Board was granted custody and control of the old Memphis and Charleston Depot (the “Depot”) and adjacent property (including the “Roundhouse”) pursuant to Ordinance No. 95-535 of the City Council of the City of Huntsville; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Board mutually desire to return custody and control of the Depot to the City (except as otherwise provided herein); and

WHEREAS, the original mission of the Board was to preserve and promote Alabama Constitution Hall, where Alabama’s first constitution was drafted; and

WHEREAS, the scope and mission of the Board has grown to include the Earlyworks Children’s Museum which focuses on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) through exhibits, programs, technology, etc. while continuing to educate children and adults about Alabama’s early history.; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to update the Ordinance establishing the Board to more accurately reflect the role and purpose of the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama that Division 4 *Alabama Constitution Village Board* of Article VIII *Boards, Commission, Committees and Authorities* of Chapter 2 *Administration* of the Code of Ordinances, City of Huntsville, Alabama is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 2-1351 *Created* is hereby amended to read as follows: The Board formerly designated as the Alabama Constitution Village Board is hereby renamed and shall henceforth be known as the Earlyworks Museums Board (the “Board”).

Section 2. All references to the Alabama Constitution Village Board in Division 4 of Article VIII of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are amended to refer to the Earlyworks Museums Board.

Section 3. Sec. 2-1354. – *Treasurer* is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Earlyworks Museums Board shall elect from its membership a treasurer and such assistant treasurers as it deems advisable. The treasurer elected by the board shall have custody of all funds of the board other than those funds appropriated by the city council, subject to the control of the board.

Section 4. Section 2-1355 *Operation of Facilities* is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Earlyworks Museums Board is granted custody and control of the Earlyworks Children's Museum and adjacent property and the Alabama Constitution Village and adjacent property. The Board is also granted custody and control of the structures adjacent to the old Memphis and Charleston Depot (the "Depot") known as the "Roundhouse" and "Eunice's" until January 15, 2027, at which time custody and control of the Roundhouse and Eunice's shall return to the City of Huntsville. All property related to the Depot, other than the Roundhouse and Eunice's, shall be under the custody and control of the City of Huntsville effective upon the adoption, approval and publication of this ordinance.

Section 5. Section 2-1356 *Powers* is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Earlyworks Museums Board shall have the authority to:

- (1) Do the acts and things necessary to carry out the objectives and purposes set forth in this division;
- (2) Acquire by purchase, gift or loan any money, securities, objects of historical or artistic value, and other property, other than real property, for museum purposes and uses;
- (3) Buy and sell, and otherwise deal, in the name of the city, in property necessary to carry out its objectives;
- (4) Cooperate with any public or private corporation or organization;
- (5) Do any lawful act necessary or expedient to improve such museum facilities for the people of the city;
- (6) Provide for exhibitions, particularly to students of the public schools, and in general to the population of the city, depicting the role of the city and the county in the formation of the state, with particular emphasis on the portrayal of life during the era when the state was being formed and while the city served as the site of the first Constitutional Convention and as its first (temporary) capital;
- (7) Encourage by appropriate means the cultivation of interest in the cultural and social value of Alabama Constitution Village, and recognition of the impact of the city upon the development and growth of the state;
- (8) Provide for the exhibitions of the commercial, industrial and transportation aspects of the city's heritage;
- (9) Encourage by appropriate means the cultivation of interest in the evolution of commerce, industry and transportation in North Alabama and recognition of the impact of these factors upon the development and growth of the city and its environs;

- (10) Encourage by appropriate means the cultivation of children's interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) through exhibits, programs, technology, etc. at the Earlyworks Children's Museum; and
- (11) Provide rules and regulations for its governance and the governance of its officials, employees and personnel under contract to it, and of any premises or property which may, from time to time, be in its custody provided such rules and regulations are in accordance with and do not conflict with or otherwise violate any provision of this Code or other ordinance or resolution of the city.

In the exercise of its power, the board shall have no power or authority to obligate the city beyond the amount appropriated by the city council for its purposes.

Section 6. Section 2-1358 *Budgets, Appropriations, Financial Procedures* is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (a) The Earlyworks Museum Board shall submit to the mayor, on or before June 30 of each year, a detailed budget of estimated expenditures for the fiscal year commencing October 1 of that year. The city council may set aside and appropriate for the use of the board, for the maintenance of the Alabama Constitution Village or the Earlyworks Children's Museum, and for the other authorized purposes of the board, either all or such part of such estimated budget as may be available or is deemed proper by the city council.
- (b) Funds, other than those appropriated by the city council, shall be administered by the board and expended by it for authorized purposes only, for the operation of Alabama Constitution Village and the Earlyworks Children's Museum, including the carrying out of any of the objectives or purposes set forth in this division, and all pertinent books and records shall at all times be subject to inspection and audit by the city clerk or finance director, or other person designated by the mayor or the city council.
- (c) For the purpose of coordinating the accounting with that used in the Department of Finance of the city, the Director of Finance is authorized to determine the method of accounting for all receipts and expenditures of the board, including the form of vouchers and general accounting records.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-197 (Cont'd)

ADOPTED this the 27th day of March, 2025.

/s/ John Meredith
President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 27th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Tommy Battle
Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama