



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board:	City Council
Date:	January 20, 2026
Contact:	Lysa Gonzales, Tourism Director
Agenda Item ID / Number:	2026-63- / L.4

ITEM TITLE: Deliberation and possible action to approve eligibility and nomination criteria for the Buda Local Legend Award (Community Relations and Destination Services Director Lysa Gonzalez) [PUBLIC TESTIMONY]

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Buda Local Legend Award recognizes an individual whose lasting contributions have significantly shaped the character, culture, history, or well-being of the City of Buda and its community. The award honors those whose impact continues to resonate and inspire current and future generations.

During the 2025 Local Legend selection process, Buda City Council discussed having criteria for the next selection process. With the 2026 Local Legend to be selected in March of 2026, staff has brought proposed eligibility criteria based on feedback from the 2025 selection.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The first Buda Local Legend ceremony took place in 2022. Between first year and last year, there has never been eligibility criteria in place.

3. ANALYSIS

Proposed Eligibility Criteria

1. General Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, a nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Have made a significant, positive, and lasting impact on the City of Buda and its residents.
- Have a meaningful connection to Buda, such as (but not limited to):
 - Resident or former resident
 - Business owner or entrepreneur
 - Volunteer, educator, artist, or cultural contributor
 - Civic, community, or faith-based leader
 - Advocate for community improvement or preservation
- Contributions should demonstrate sustained involvement or enduring influence, rather than a single isolated action.

2. Nature of Contributions

Eligible contributions may include, but are not limited to:

- Civic leadership or community advocacy
- Volunteerism and public service

- Arts, culture, music, or heritage preservation
- Education, youth mentorship, or philanthropy
- Business leadership that positively benefited the community
- Historical preservation or storytelling
- Community building during pivotal moments in Buda's history

Contributions should align with the City of Buda's core values of community, resourcefulness, integrity, charm, and service.

3. Ineligible Individuals

The following individuals are not eligible for selection:

- Current members of the Buda City Council while actively serving their term.
- Actively serving elected officials at the local, state, or federal level during their current term of office.
- Current City of Buda employees while actively employed by the City.
- Individuals whose selection would create a real or perceived conflict of interest for City decision-makers.

Eligibility may be reconsidered once an individual is no longer actively serving in the above roles.

Legacy Considerations

In addition to eligibility, the following factors may be considered during selection:

- The nominee's enduring legacy and long-term influence on Buda.
- Community recognition, respect, or remembrance of the nominee's contributions.
- The nominee's story and its ability to inspire civic pride and community connection.

Posthumous nominations are permitted.

Nomination & Selection Guidelines

- Individuals may be nominated by members of the public, community organizations, or City representatives.
- Individuals who were previously nominated but not selected may be re-nominated in future years.
- The award may be presented annually; however, no award is required to be given if no nominee sufficiently meets the intent of the award.
- The City may limit the number of recipients per year to preserve the significance of the honor.

Selection Discretion

Selection of a Buda Local Legend is based on the nominee's overall impact and legacy. No single criterion shall be determinative, and the City retains discretion to interpret and apply these criteria in alignment with the intent of the award.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

FUN EXPERIENCES FOR ALL

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Fun experiences for all.

7. PROS AND CONS

Pros: establishes eligibility criteria aligned with the spirit of the award.

Cons: none.

8. ALTERNATIVES

The City Council may suggest any edits to the criteria or choose not to establish criteria in favor of accepting nominations from anyone.

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approving the proposed eligibility criteria as presented.

Attachments: