

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council - Commissioners Court Meeting	<b>Item ID</b>	36246	<b>Agenda Number</b>	21.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	9/25/2014	<b>Department:</b>	Economic Development
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**Subject**

Approve a resolution awarding cultural arts services contracts to various applicants to the Cultural Arts Funding Program for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in an amount not to exceed \$5,931,253 authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute such contracts, and further authorizing payment in the amount of \$60,000 for Zachary Scott Theatre Center maintenance per a separate current operations agreement.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$5,931,253 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 approved budget for the Cultural Arts Fund for cultural contracts.

**Fiscal Note**

There is no anticipated fiscal impact.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	September 8, 2014-Council approved the FY 2014-2015 Cultural Arts Fund during adoption of the FY 2014-2015 Budget.
<b>For More Information:</b>	Kevin Johns, Director, Economic Development Department, 974-7802; Megan Crigger, Cultural Arts Program Manager, 974-9312
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	August 26, 2014-The Austin Arts Commission voted 4-0-3 to recommend approval of the FY 2014-2015 Cultural Arts Fund. Chairman Barnes and Commissioners Auerbach and Wong-Mok abstaining due to a conflict of interest.
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

**Additional Backup Information**

This agenda item seeks City Council approval of the fiscal Year 2014-2015 cultural arts services contracts in the amount of \$5,931,253 from the Cultural Arts Fund.

The Cultural Arts Division of the Economic Development Department manages funding programs to provide financial support to organizations and individuals through a competitive application and review process. The majority of the funds for cultural arts services contracts are derived from a portion of the revenues from the City's hotel occupancy tax. Because the funds must be used to promote tourism as well as the convention and hotel industry, the application process must ensure that the activities being funded meet one of the specific uses authorized by state law. Applicants must use the funds to provide activities related to programming and projects that will attract visitors and tourists to the City. The programming and projects must be consistent with the promotion and enhancement of the City as a cultural destination for tourists and people attending conventions in Austin.

The funding working group of the Austin Arts Commission (Arts Commission) worked with Cultural Arts Division staff in the development of a funding plan based on a model adopted by Council on August 18, 2005. Deliberations by the Arts Commission on the funding plan and related matrix parameters were conducted in a blind process. Names of the individual applicants were not revealed during the competitive selection process. Recommended contracts below the City Manager's authority are being approved by the City Manager under Article V, Section 2 of the City Charter. Contracts in excess of that amount are shown on "Exhibit A." Both the contracts approved by the City Manager and those contracts as shown on Exhibit A were recommended by the Arts Commission on August 26, 2014.

