

## **Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission**

### **The Board/Commission mission statement per the City Code Section 2-1-107 is:**

§ 2-1-107 AUSTIN COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

The Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission membership should be broadly representative of community interests. A commissioner should have resided continuously within the City for not less than 180 days.

In this section:

- Information and communications technology includes digital devices, networks, and software that allow people to create, access, store, transmit, and manipulate information.
- Community technology includes information, communications technology training, and access that promotes civic and cultural participation, employment, and life-long learning.
- Telecommunications services include all transmission of voice, data, or video by means of permanent facilities installed in the City's rights-of-way or by means of radio transmission.

(A) The commission shall advise the city council regarding issues that include:

- (1) community technology;
- (2) telecommunications services;
- (3) new sources of funding for access television projects;
- (4) new sources of funding for community technology projects;
- (5) allocation of annual financial support;
- (6) the evaluation of the performance of access television contractors and other community technology contractors, including development of criteria to be used for evaluations;
- (7) Information and communications technology facilities and services that are operated by the City for public use, including the City web site, Internet services and open government technologies

(B) The commission shall conduct public hearings regarding issues that include:

- (1) the performance of access television contractors and other community technology contractors;
- (2) the identification of community cable, telecommunications, and technology needs

(C) The commission shall promote access to telecommunications services and community technologies by methods including:

- (1) public awareness, use, and viewership of access television programming and other community media;
- (2) identifying community technology needs and problems in the City and defining innovative programming approaches to those needs and problems;
- (3) public awareness of telecommunications policy and community technology issues.

(D) The commission shall serve as a coordinating forum for issues relating to the provision of every different type of telecommunications services and community technologies, by receiving reports and recommendations from other City boards and commissions and from City departments, and forwarding these to the city council.

(E) The commission does not possess any sovereign authority regarding any cable television or cable related telecommunications issue, and the commission serves in an advisory capacity only.

(F) The Commission may create a Grant Review Committee consisting of up to seven members to review grant applications, conduct interviews, and evaluate applications for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Commission for grant awards under the City's Grant for Technology Opportunities program. The Commission may appoint persons to the Grant Review Committee who are not members of the Commission, but must appoint one member of the Commission to the Grant Review Committee who shall serve as ex-officio chair of the Grant Review Committee. All members of the Grant Review Committee are subject to Article 4 of Chapter 2-7 of the Code (*Code of Ethics*).

Issue areas: A, B

- (A) The commission shall advise the city council regarding issues that include:
- (B) The commission shall conduct public hearings regarding issues that include:

Objectives served:

- (1) community technology;
  - (2) telecommunications services;
  - (3) new sources of funding for access television projects;
  - (4) new sources of funding for community technology projects;
  - (5) allocation of annual financial support;
  - (6) the evaluation of the performance of access television contractors and other community technology contractors, including development of criteria to be used for evaluations;
  - (7) Information and communications technology facilities and services that are operated by the City for public use, including the City web site, Internet services and open government technologies
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- (1) the performance of access television contractors and other community technology contractors;
  - (2) the identification of community cable, telecommunications, and technology needs

Goal areas:

Strategy statements:

Commission Effectiveness

- Collaborate with staff to develop a Council District focused Communications Plan to provide updates to Council appointees of Commission priorities.
- Coordinate with other relevant City Commissions to organize a “show & tell” of Commission priorities, achievements and opportunities.
- Revise enabling charter language to better reflect pertinent issues such as open government.

Issue areas: C, D, E

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(E) The commission does not possess any sovereign authority regarding any cable television or cable related telecommunications issue, and the commission serves in an advisory capacity only.

Objectives served:

- (1) public awareness, use, and viewership of access television programming and other community media;
- (2) identifying community technology needs and problems in the City and defining innovative programming approaches to those needs and problems;
- (3) public awareness of telecommunications policy and community technology issues.

Goal areas:

Strategy statements:

Community Media & PEG

Solicit increased community input in establishing the public access TV management contract.

Leverage the resources among all the PEG channels provide relevant training to students, parents and small businesses.

Receive updates from the Digital Inclusion Working Group to support community media and PEG focused strategies and then monitor implementation through the Digital Inclusion Advisory Group.

Issue areas: None	
Objectives served: None	
Goal areas:	Strategy statements:
Open Government	<p>Define short-term measurables for city and community civic engagement.</p> <p>Engage the Commission’s Open Government Working Group (and representative City departments) to solicit the input of stakeholders regarding the Open Government Resolution and collaborate with staff by making recommendations to the Austin City Council.</p> <p>Monitor the Open Austin organization for development of new applications or innovations that may promote civic engagement.</p>
<p>Issue areas: C, D</p> <p>(C) The commission shall promote access to telecommunications services and community technologies by methods including:</p> <p>(D) The commission shall serve as a coordinating forum for issues relating to the provision of every different type of telecommunications services and community technologies, by receiving reports and recommendations from other City boards and commissions and from City departments, and forwarding these to the city council.</p>	
<p>Objectives served:</p> <p>(1) public awareness, use, and viewership of access television programming and other community media;</p> <p>(2) identifying community technology needs and problems in the City and defining innovative programming approaches to those needs and problems;</p> <p>(3) public awareness of telecommunications policy and community technology issues.</p>	
Goal areas:	Strategy statements:
Digital Divide / Inclusiveness	<p>Leverage the partnership with Austin Free-net to address digital divide awareness with the city’s gig speed providers.</p> <p>Receive updates from the Digital Inclusion Working Group to support program implementation strategies and then monitor implementation through the Digital Inclusion Advisory Group.</p>

	<p>Collaborate with staff by making recommendations to the Digital Inclusion Advisory Group regarding program implementation.</p> <p>Review and improve communication strategies in all demographic and Council districts to increase and measure technology dashboard goals.</p> <p>Recommend a communications campaign to raise awareness of how technology can help the community.</p> <p>Define goals and objectives for the Community Connections Program.</p>
<p>Issue areas: F</p> <p>(F) The Commission may create a Grant Review Committee consisting of up to seven members to review grant applications, conduct interviews, and evaluate applications for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Commission for grant awards under the City’s Grant for Technology Opportunities program. The Commission may appoint persons to the Grant Review Committee who are not members of the Commission, but must appoint one member of the Commission to the Grant Review Committee who shall serve as ex-officio chair of the Grant Review Committee. All members of the Grant Review Committee are subject to Article 4 of Chapter 2-7 of the Code (<i>Code of Ethics</i>).</p>	
<p>Goal areas:</p>	<p>Strategy statements:</p>
<p>Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs)</p>	<p>Leverage Digital Inclusion Working Group to act as GTOPs 2016 Review working group to ensure alignment with the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Create better solutions for the maintenance of hardware/software for GTOPS recipients who lack tech support staff.</p> <p>Recommend a \$50,000 budget increase to support technology relevancy needs for community organizations in the 2016 budget development process.</p> <p>Present an update to Mayor &amp; Council on the importance of GTOPs.</p>