



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
Arts Commission
Recommendation Number: 20160321-5.a.ii.
Unmet Staffing Needs for the Cultural Arts Division

WHEREAS the staffing needs of the Economic Development Department's Cultural Arts Division have not kept pace with the growing demands of a burgeoning arts and citywide population, and

WHEREAS there has been a marked increase in number of City capital improvement projects over the last ten years, resulting in a substantial increase in Art In Public Places program activity, with growth from a staff of 3 in 2005 to a staff of 7 in 2016 (3 of whom are temporary employees), 600% growth in number of yearly active projects from 2005 (11) to 2015 (77), and 337% growth of expended program funding from 2005 to 2015, and

WHEREAS the Cultural Arts Division has demonstrated the need for multiple positions which have been categorized as temporary, some for as long as 10 years, and the Division has only been allowed to convert two temporary positions to permanent in the past decade (which were self-funded by the Economic Development Department), with no additional new permanent positions added during that time, and

WHEREAS community participation has increased in both new and ongoing opportunities through the Cultural Funding Program resulting in an increase in the last 10 years in the number of cultural contracts from 200 to 300, funding programs from 2 to 5, and 262% increase in the amount of funding to administer, and decrease in dedicated full-time, permanent program staff from 3.5 to 2 over that same period of time, and

WHEREAS the *Building Austin's Creative Capacity* community needs assessment identified key areas where the Cultural Arts Division staff can be of additional service to the Arts Community, and

WHEREAS the Council recently passed the Music and Creative Ecosystem Omnibus Resolution that will provide additional strategies to support the community and workload for the Cultural Arts Division, and

WHEREAS the Cultural Arts Division staff is stretched beyond capacity on current and planned projects, and

WHEREAS the Economic Development Department's Cultural Arts Division has reviewed their staffing needs and identified the need for additional employees in the FY 2017 budget, and

WHEREAS the Arts Commission has identified, through a review of the funding program guidelines and procedures and interviews with community artists and staff, a need for additional Cultural Arts Division staffing,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Arts Commission requests City Council support for converting a temporary Art In Public Places Coordinator position to a full time permanent position and adding one Contract Compliance Specialist to support Cultural Funding programs.

Date of Approval: March 21, 2016

Record of the vote: passed on a 10-0 vote, Commissioner White absent

Attest: 