

Dear Mr Duarte,

I wanted to highlight the important role that the Off Center plays specifically to Austin's music community.

80% of all shows at the Off Center feature live music or an original score by an Austin composer. There were 75 live music performances at the Off Center within the last year.

Two of the programs we sponsored this year through our Rude Fusion program were musical events. Rude Fusion is our way of supporting Austin's creative community by offering the Off Center absolutely free. We do this specifically so musicians and other artists get paid more. At the end of August we donated the space to AMODA who commissioned 4 Austin composers: Justin Sherburn, Matt Steinke, Kyle Evans, and Zac Träger to create original music along with new work by 50 visual artists that responded in real time to the music. We also donated the space to Church of the Friendly Ghost who hosted a 5 day music festival that featured new music by women composers. The festival had 21 different bands and musicians play.

This year we donated our rehearsal space completely free of charge to Austin Legend Graham Reynolds. The Off Center is where he wrote and rehearsed his brand new opera Pancho Villa.

At the other end of the spectrum, but equally as important we feel, we also donated our space to a group of recent graduates from the University of Texas at Austin to devise their very first piece of theatre together. They worked with three musicians who played an original score throughout the production.

This is just a small selection of the original music that was created and performed at the Off Center this year. As you see The Off Center is an incubator for new music and experimentation and projects that blur the boundaries of art-making. We believe that this is possible only because of the subsidized rates or free space that we offer to musicians and other artists.