

Rude Mechs' The Off Center supports 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*.

Rude Mechs donated our space completely free of charge to 4 arts projects featuring live music last year, and we heavily subsidized two others.

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. 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.

What makes Off Center a valuable resource is not necessarily the quantity of gigs but the unique quality of a small independent multi-arts incubator. The majority of the work by musicians at the Off Center is a collaboration with an artist of another discipline. Show times and audience seating vary, but most shows start at 8pm and are for a seated crowd—putting the focus on the art and on listening — the focus is the music and the work.

A nightly rental of The Off Center includes use of lighting equipment, sound equipment, a 1600 sq ft performance space, and an audience area that seats up to 100 people.

Affordability is central to The Off Center mission because we want to create an environment where artists and musicians are able to take risks and not just stick to what is commercially viable. We believe economic status should never determine access to the arts.