

September 10, 2018

Austin Urban Renewal Board
Austin, Texas

Dear Ms. Harkins,

As we approach the end of this year's License Agreement for our use of the Block 18 Property known as Kenny Dorham's Backyard, I am writing to officially express our interest in continuing our relationship with the Urban Renewal Board for FY 2018-2019.

We do not envision any significant change in our programming mission for the coming year and will continue to what we can to provide quality cultural programs and community engagement for our Central East Austin Neighborhood.

I sincerely hope that Staff and the Board grant our request to continue our work at Kenny Dorham's Backyard.

Best Regards,

Harold McMillan
Founder/Director
DiverseArts/Kenny Dorham's Backyard

What we do at Kenny Dorham's Backyard

Kenny Dorham's Backyard (1106 East 11th) is DiverseArts' project in Central East Austin (within the Cultural Heritage District) that addresses our programming mission to provide a public community space, organized around these core components and attributes:

- We are the only African American-operated performance and cultural arts community space of its kind in the Central East Austin African American Cultural Heritage District
- We are the only African American-operated live music venue in Central East Austin/East 11th Street Corridor that regularly programs a mix of African American traditional and contemporary culture-based music, as well as a mix of contemporary styles and genres
 - Performances of African/African American culture-based musics, including jazz, blues, gospel, soul, and various related international music from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, South and Central America.
- Exhibition of large-scale outdoor visual art pieces, paintings/murals, sculpture, etc
- Organic-methods community garden plots for ornamental and vegetable crops
- Publicly accessible green space, with open lawns, picnic tables, and shade structures
- A free book exchange for children's books, as well as free art supplies and toys

- Internship, volunteer, and educational opportunities for adults, youth, and children
- A community-based production facility for hosting and collaborating with area nonprofits, community/neighborhood groups, and various arts and culture projects
- A space to provide business opportunities for food vendors, with a focus on the cuisine of African/African American and ethnic minority communities (and arts and culture creatives) that are compatible with our overarching goals and mission for this public community space
- We have never received a citation for noncompliance with our Outdoor Live Music Venue Permit
- We have never received a citation for noncompliance with the Sound Ordinance, TABC regulations, Health Department regulations, or other Code Enforcement violations
- We have never made nor received an APD call because of public intoxication, violence, or crowd control issues. Never.
- Each time that we have applied for and renewed our OMV Permit the two affected neighborhood organizations (Guadalupe and Anderson/Robertson Hill) have officially supported our application.
- Broader community-wide support has come forward each time the URA has considered renewing our License Agreements (hundreds of supporters, in person and via emails to Council and URA Board members)