



AUSTIN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Joint Arts and Music Commission Meeting – Saturday, June 8, 2019, 10:00 A.M.

Asian American Resource Center
8401 Cameron Rd, Austin, TX 78754

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Jaime Castillo – Chair, Michelle Polgar–Vice Chair, Brett Barnes, Lulu Flores, Bears Rebecca Fonte, Felipe Garza, Mary Latouf, Amy Mok, Megan Moten, Krissi Reeves, Celina Zisman

Commissioners Fonte and Garza were absent

ATTENDEE CHECK IN & SPEAKER SIGN UP - 9:45am – 10:00am

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS (10 minutes)

Arts Commission and Music Commission Chairs
Cara Welch, Facilitator

2. PRESENTATION ON PROCESS & LEGAL PARAMETERS (15 minutes)

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Interim Deputy Director Economic Development Department

3. PRESENTATION OF SURVEY DATA (15 minutes)

Erica Shamaly, Division Manager Music & Entertainment Division

BREAK – 10:40am (10 minutes)

4. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION (90 minutes)

Citizens Communications is an opportunity to share feedback on how the bond funds will best reflect the community values and needs - not to pitch specific organizations, existing real estate or entities. (Please fill out the survey at www.speakupaustin.org/bond-for-creative-space to share those ideas.)

Each speaker will have up to 3 minutes to address this question:

Given the purpose of the bond and its legal parameters what will success for the community look like?

(Purpose & Legal parameters provided at www.speakupaustin.org/bond-for-creative-space)

- a. Colin Kendrick, Black Fret – Support live music venues, amplify live music venues, support emerging arts, and export music internationally
- b. Graham Webber, House of Songs – Provide the knowledge, support and space to create new work and support the growth and development of the arts community. Collaboration in learning and space across all disciplines
- c. Samantha Phelps – work in tandem with current spaces, adaptive, forward thinking, where Austin Artists can work collaboratively with non-profits and established venues to support

- d. Harold Bowling, George Washington Carver Ambassadors – would like to use the funds to support augmentation to the current space, including a 500-seat theatre, studio spaces, and dance studio
- e. Tony Halstead, Capital City Men’s Chorus (aka Austin Gay Men’s Chorus) – Need space for Choruses for performances, current spaces are too small and limit growth and collaboration
- f. Kate Howard, Austin Texas Musician – Rehearsal spaces are limited, would like the City to invest in already existing spaces. The facility should also have performance space, some artists would prefer in spaces that are not in bars.
- g. Pat Buchta, Austin Texas Musicians – Would like to create a home for Austin Musicians. Half of the funds go towards updates to already existing places that have a history of serving the commercial music industry, that has space for rehearsal, office, and performance spaces – create music hubs
- h. John Zozzaro – Building repurposing space is not going to support the problem, Funds should be used to create a STEAM Center where education
- i. Pamela Hart, Women in Jazz – Support the Carver expansion and maintenance, including updated sound equipment and modernization of the facility
- j. Dan Redman, Mosaic Sound Collective – Request to consider purchasing a space
- k. Michelle Voss, Co-Lab – Invest in existing spaces and organizations, strive for equity in the process of fund allocation, appoint an independent body to from the Economic Development Department to determine the use of the bond funds
- l. Catlin Whittington – half of the funds should be used for serving the music community, a facility that is open 24/7 and leverages public and private partnerships
- m. Daniel Llanes – Racial equity should be a primary focus as fund usage is determined and is also here to advocate for the Santa Cruz Center and the Victory Grill
- n. Glenn Dembowski – How is access being considered when determining the use of the funds? The space(s) should build community. Keep in mind who is being left out and how can we reach them
- o. Hector Baltierra – Stay focused with the funds. The 12 million should be used to support infrastructure and maintaining what we have. Work with parks and rec, consider the PALM School as a museum for Tejano Music. Mosaic Sound Collective is a space that could be considered
- p. Johnny Limon, Austin Tejano Music Coalition – Tejano music has not been included in Austin’s music venues. Musicians must go to San Antonio to perform. Wants to have the funds used to support Tejano Music, support Plaza Saltillo and the Pan American Center
- q. Art Navarro – Support of Tejano Music and provide space in a music hub at the MACC,
- r. Richard Converse – Explore opportunities to commemorate Roky Ericson, invest in existing facilities rather than new and shiny spaces, Art in Public Places with public spaces out fitted with a PA/stage that are as easily accessible as a public water fountain
- s. Anna Maciel – Advocate for the MACC, Rosewood-Zaragoza Center, and the Pan AM Recreation Center
- t. Sonya Jevette, Austin Texas Musician – More women focused and youth focused groups education for business focused training

- u. Daniels Phipps – How Music Works, Chapter 9 – how to make a scene, to encourage growth in the music community
- v. Leonard D’Avila – MACC expansion that would include a performance space that seats 2,000, would like funds to support the promotion of the culture and activities at the MACC
- w. Larry Amaro – Use the funds equitably, success in equitable distribution of the funds, ask who the community at large wants. The funds should be used to serve the community.
- x. Jean-Pierre Verdijo – Preservation of the art forms contributed by underrepresented groups
- y. Harold McMillan – Look to fund something big and substantial – create affordable arts venues, seek out the urban renewable plan, develop an arts district downtown
- z. Don Mason – invest in local non-profits, and in existing local spaces and diverse groups
- aa. Alex Basset, Rude Mechs – More than one space, more than 3, or 4 or 5, Artists of all disciplines need time, affordable space, and utilitarian spaces, and 24 hour spaces, and should be cheap to free spaces
- bb. Mike Henry, Mosaic Sound Collective – Keep the recommendations are simple, support existing spaces, and existing organizations
- cc. Josh Green, Pump Project – EDD to hire a consultant to help come up with a plan to find funds that can match the \$12 million
- dd. Frank Rodriguez, EQ Austin – EDI should be considered throughout the process. Keep in mind that business models are different, and their needs are different. Leveraging resources by working with public and private sectors
- ee. Zach Zulch, Almost Real Things and Pump Project – Advocate for the purchase of existing spaces, and a request for an external entity to manage funds
- ff. Asaf Ronen – concern for groups that are looking smaller spaces, make sure to keep those groups in mind,
- gg. Ben Elvis Metlin– Having an international ambassador to bring in large international artists would be good
- hh. Naila Sankofa – What is the expected time-line – 5 years is too slow – the Carver should not be the only space for African Diaspora Arts and Culture

5. COMMISSION DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

6. CLOSING COMMENTS AND NEXT STEPS (15 minutes)

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Interim Deputy Director Economic Development Department

ADJOURNMENT – 1:00pm

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Anne-Marie McKaskle-Davis at the Cultural Arts Division, at 512-974-7854, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Austin Arts Commission please contact Anne-Marie McKaskle-Davis at 512-974-7854.