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**JOINT MUSIC AND ARTS COMMISSIONS
CREATIVE SPACE BOND WORKING GROUP
RECOMMENDATION MEMO**

Based on community feedback received through surveys and Joint Commission meetings, and after multiple meetings with staff and consultants to discuss the various options and scenarios, the Creative Space Bond Working Group makes the following usage recommendations for the voter-approved \$12 million Creative Space Bond:

PURPOSE + PATH

The Bond project(s) should specifically address historic inequity and alleviate the crisis-level issues facing the creative community including affordability and rapid loss of creative spaces including theatres, galleries and music venues. The project(s) should provide long-term, affordable and accessible creative space(s) invulnerable to the City's rapidly escalating property values and increasing cost of living/working.

We recommend that the Creative Space Bond funds be used to acquire, build, improve or re-purpose a multi-use/multi-purpose facility or facilities that meet the expressed needs of the arts and music communities while serving a public purpose and enriching the cultural life of the city.

The Working Group feels that the ideal project/facility/facilities will be city-owned property that is/are built and operated/managed by a partner or team of partners that meet certain minimum and other requirements established by the City and set forth in a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the selection of said partner or partners.

EQUITY

First and foremost, to be eligible, a project should be equity-based. To be considered equity-based, the project must address past inequities to underserved/marginalized creative individuals/groups and incorporate an equity-driven process as outlined by the City of Austin Equity Office into the vision for the proposed project.

To ensure equity, at a minimum, the following steps/processes should be included:

- Operational management's leadership and staff/administration is comprised of at least 33% of people from underserved/marginalized groups or communities of color.
- The project must offer free or significantly reduced rate creative space to underserved/marginalized individuals/groups.
- Allows for equal opportunity for project participation. Strategic partnerships will be allowed. (No pay to play.)
- City RFP process must include targeted outreach to historically underserved/marginalized populations.

AMENITIES

The selected facility/facilities must be fully built out and ready for use upon completion/opening and would address the current gap in amenities including, but not limited to:

- Flexible rehearsal spaces to include small rooms for bands/theater companies/performance artists to rehearse

- Performance venue with a capacity of at least 50 seats (may include outdoors)
- Visual arts studio and gallery space(s)
- Educational space(s)

LOCATION

The preferred project/facility/facilities should be located in or near the targeted zones identified by the public as follows:

- E of I-35, W of US-183
- S of Lady Bird Lake, N of Ben White (HWY-71)
- Downtown (Lady Bird Lake to MLK and I-35 to MoPac)
- N of 30th St, S of US-183

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Total project(s) costs cannot exceed \$12,000,000 unless the funding gap is fully funded by the proposing partner/team of partners.

SUPPORT MATERIALS

Please see "Sample RFP Requirements"

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