



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2240, **Agenda Item #:** 76.

5/21/2020

Posting Language

Ratify the contract with MusiCares Foundation, Inc. to administer the Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund grant program to disburse emergency funds to Austin musicians in need of relief as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of SXSW.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

April 9, 2020- Mayor and Council approved Resolution No. 20200409-086, directing the City Manager to establish an “Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund” to provide emergency relief for Austin’s most vulnerable musicians who are in need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and related government actions taken to halt the spread of the disease.

April 23, 2020 - Council voted to amend Ordinance No. 20200423-067, the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Emergency Reserve to designate \$1,500,000 for the Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund.

For More Information:

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Erica Shamaly, Music & Entertainment Division Manager, 512-974-7821.

Additional Backup Information:

Since receiving direction from Council in April, Staff researched and applied best practices-as well as feedback from the Austin music community-to form eligibility and application guidelines to be executed by a third party. To ensure that Austin’s most vulnerable musicians are aware of the opportunity and prepared to apply, coordinated outreach partnerships with local “Community Champions” will serve to inform music communities across Austin, while also providing any technical support necessary for musicians to quickly complete applications. The Music and Entertainment Division worked with the Equity Office to assemble a list of Community Champions and are willing to connect with other individuals or organizations recommended by Council. Staff has set a tentative date of Thursday, May 28th for announcing the program in coordination with our Community Champions and the City of Austin’s Public Information Office. Information shared on this date will include City of Austin guidelines for the relief fund, as well as a complete list of application questions. Local musicians can prepare their submissions based on this information before the application link goes live on Monday, June 8. Staff anticipates daily discussions with the MusiCares Foundation as applications are processed before closing the submission page on Friday, June 12th.

Staff executed the contract with MusiCares Foundation, so it could prepare the grant program and be ready to disburse funds. This item is to request Council ratify this contract.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.