



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020

Arts Commission

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

Advise the city council in all arts-related matters, including long range planning, allocations process, and coordination with the comprehensive plan; promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting activities relating to the arts in the city, so that all art resources within the city may be coordinated to maximize promotion and support of the arts in the city; facilitate communication between arts organizations; and foster and assist the development of the arts in the city.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**
 - a. Submitted the following recommendation to City Council:**
 - i. ARTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20191021-7.a.iii - Recommendation to Support the Purchase of Palm School
 - ii. ARTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20191209-6.a.iii.A - Joint Arts Commission and Music Commission Recommendation on the usage of the \$12 Million Creative Space Bond
 - iii. ARTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20200624-5.a - Arts Commission Recommendation on Austin Non-profit Arts Organizations' request for \$5M in additional funding specifically for non-profit arts organizations of all sizes to retain jobs and sustain operations and remain open during this pandemic and economic crisis.

b. Approved FY 21 Funding Matrix and Allocations

c. Approved the following Cultural Funding Guidelines:

- i. FY 20 Community Initiatives Guidelines
- ii. FY 20 Core Interim Guidelines
- iii. FY 20 Cultural Heritage Festivals Guidelines

d. Approved the following Community Initiatives funding recommendations:

i.Q1 (Events beginning October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019)

- I. Luis Armando Ordaz \$3,500
- II. Mercy Emelike \$3,500
- III. Vortex Repertory Co/ Avante Theatre \$3,000
- IV. Emmet Hunker \$3,500
- V. Drew Edwards \$3,500
- VI. Rehab El Sadek \$3,000
- VII. Big Medium/ The Projecto \$3,500
- VIII. Austin Chinese Choir Inc \$3,000
- IX. Jonathan Villela \$3,000
- X. Texas Folklife Resources/ Ameyaltonal Austin \$3,000
- XI. Austin Creative Alliance/ Lane Stanley \$3,000
- XII. Artly World \$3,000
- XIII. Texas Bengali Cultural Alliance (TBCA) \$3,000
- XIV. Austin Action Fest \$3,000
- XV. Aurelio Planes Rodriguez \$3,000
- XVI. Austin Creative Alliance/ SAGE Studio \$3,000
- XVII. Austin Creative Alliance/ Ashe Arts \$3,000
- XVIII. Carrie Rodriguez \$3,000
- XIX. Co-Lab Projects/ Rites of Warming: A Song \$3,000
- XX. Austin Creative Alliance/ Heartland Theatre Collective \$3,000

ii.Q2 (Events beginning January 1, 2020 – March 31, 2020)

- I. The NexCrew \$3,500.00
- II. Christopher Allen Cogburn \$3,000.00
- III. Capital View Arts/ First Saturdays \$3,500.00
- IV. Hands Full of Cash Car Club \$3,000.00
- V. Center for Women & Their Work/ Jennifer Cumberbatch \$3,500.00
- VI. Co-Lab Projects/ Glitter Dreamz \$3,500.00
- VII. Co-Lab Projects/ Glowed Up \$3,500.00
- VIII. Big Medium/ Keyheira Keys \$3,000.00
- IX. Lone Star Lambdas \$3,350.00
- X. Shani Hebert \$3,500.00
- XI. The Museum of Human Achievement/ Green Room \$3,000.00
- XII. Austin Creative Alliance/ Keep Composers Weird \$3,000.00

- XIII. Gregory W Gonzalez \$3,000.00
- XIV. Juan A Izaguirre \$3,000.00
- XV. Andrea Zarate \$3,000.00
- XVI. Vortex Repertory Co/ Bailando En Camino \$3,700.00
- XVII. Austin Creative Alliance/ King Productions \$3,500.00
- XVIII. Austin Moonflower Performing Arts Group \$3,000.00
- XIX. Capital View Arts/ Black Fashion Extra \$3,500.00
- XX. Dr Bobby Banner, MPC \$3,000.00
- XXI. Motion Media Arts Center/ New Manifest Theatre \$3,500.00
- XXII. Texas Education Broadcasting Co-Operative Inc/ Gilka Cespedes \$3,300.00
- XXIII. Foundation Communities \$4,100.00
- XXIV. Andrew Brown \$3,000.00

iii. Q3 (Events beginning April 1, 2020 – June 20, 2020)

- I. Co-Lab Projects/ ChingonX Fire Exhibition \$3,500
- II. AUSTIN REVITALIZATION AUTHORITY/ Diverse Literary Voices \$3,000
- III. AUSTIN REVITALIZATION AUTHORITY/ East Austin Blues Jam Documentary \$2,100
- IV. Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church \$3,500
- V. Art Spark Texas/ Eastsider Stories \$3,500
- VI. ATX Interfaces (Nia Brookins) \$3,500
- VII. Ishida Dance \$3,300
- VIII. OUTsider Film & Arts Festival/ Queer Bomb \$3,000
- IX. Rakhee Jain \$3,000
- X. Co-Lab Projects/ Dyke March \$3,000
- XI. Latinx Theatre Initiative at UT Austin \$3,000
- XII. The Museum of Human Achievement/ Mohadev Bhattacharyya \$3,000
- XIII. Capital View Arts/ Trust Your Struggle \$3,000
- XIV. Jeannelle Ramirez \$3,000
- XV. Julissa Gonzales (Austin Mayan Collective) \$3,000
- XVI. Arunachala Nagarajan \$3,000
- XVII. Capital View Arts/ Sunken Stage \$3,000
- XVIII. The Museum of Human Achievement/ Andie Flores \$3,000
- XIX. The Museum of Human Achievement/ Jay Roff-Garcia, rudio/noise \$3,000
- XX. Thomas B. Yee \$3,000
- XXI. Y'all We Asian \$3,000
- XXII. Capital View Arts/ Austin Urban Hip-Hop Night \$3,000
- XXIII. Co-Lab Projects/ Aaron Benavides \$3,000
- XXIV. Nora McMillan Burke \$2,500
- XXV. Kalen McGuire \$3,000
- XXVI. The Museum of Human Achievement/ Reverie \$3,000

- XXVII. Austin Creative Alliance/ LVnTheLife \$3,000
- XXVIII. AUSTIN REVITALIZATION AUTHORITY/ The Listening Lounge at The LINE \$3,000
- XXIX. Capital View Arts/ Juneteenth Block Party \$3,000
- XXX. GO workshop (DBA Civic Arts) \$3,000
- XXXI. Center for Women & Their Work/ Meghan Shogan \$3,000
- XXXII. AUSTIN REVITALIZATION AUTHORITY/ Ballet Afrique \$3,000
- XXXIII. The Museum of Human Achievement/ Black Mountain Project 3,000
- XXXIV. SoireeATX (Meli Pinder) \$3,000

e. Approved the following Art in Public Places processes/ prospectuses/ designs/ recommendations:

- i. Approve the Final Design for the TEMPO 2019 Art in Public Places Project --Angel Alcala, Artist
- ii. Approve the Selection Panel Recommendation for Rosewood District Park Bathhouse AIPP Project
- iii. Approve extension of the 2018 exhibition period for select TEMPO 2D AIPP projects and the TEMPO Refresh AIPP project
- iv. Approve the Prospectus for Govalle Park Pool Phase II Art in Public Places
- v. Approve the Selection Process Recommendation for the Little Stacy Neighborhood Park Art in Public Places Project
- vi. Approve the Final Designs (10 Murals) for the TEMPO 2D AIPP Exhibition
- vii. Approve the Selection process recommendation for the Ricky Guerro Pocket Park, Art in Public Places
- viii. Approve the Final Design by Ion Art for the 8th Streetscape Art in Public Places Project
- ix. Approve the Final Design by Fidencio Duran for the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Art in Public Places Project
- x. Approve the Prospectus for Art in Public Places Corridor Construction Program Artist Pool
- xi. Approve the Final Design by Yareth Fernández for Dove Springs Recreation Center, Art in Public Places Project
- xii. Approve the Final Design by Artist Mary Jane Garza for the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Interior Lobby Opportunity
- xiii. Approve the Final Design by Artist Mathew Rodriguez for the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Window Shade Screen Opportunity
- xiv. Approve the Final Design by Artist Agustina Rodriguez for the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Exterior Sculpture Opportunity

- xv. Approve the Final Design by Artist Peter Ortiz for the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Exterior Stairwell Wall Opportunity
- xvi. Approve the Prospectus for Art in Public Places Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park Project
- xvii. Approve the Direct Select of Arte Texas for the Martin Pool Mural Restoration Art in Public Places Project
- xviii. Approve the Selection Process Recommendations for the AUS Terminal/Apron Expansion and Improvement AIPP Project Phase II
- xix. Approve the Final Design by Artists J Muzacz and Polis for the Rosewood Neighborhood Park Bathhouse AIPP Project
- xx. Approve the Prospectus for the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation AIPP Project
- xxi. Prospectus for the Austin Convention Center Warehouse and Marshalling Yard

f. Reviewed 4 proposed artwork donations or loans to the City of Austin:

- i. Approved art work donation of Chicano Rock by David Santos, Ramon Maldonado and Alex Isles for median at 12th St. and Red River
- ii. Approve the Artwork Loan of Murals titled The Pillars Project, by Public City for EastLink, located below the Pleasant Valley Bridge
- iii. Approve Artwork Donation by Taylor Brown of sculpture entitled 9th for site at Duncan Park 900 W. 9th St, Austin, TX 78703, donated by 9th Street BMX
- iv. Approve Artwork Donation from Ryan Companies of sculpture “Aurora” by artist FYOOG for the City of Austin Planning and Development Center Building

g. Re-elected Jaime Castillo as Chair and Michelle Polgar as Vice Chair of the Arts Commission

h. Appointed the following Arts Commissioners as the Chair to the Art in Public Places Panel Nominating Committee:

- i. Commissioner Amy Mok

i. Appointed the following people to the Art in Public Places Panel:

- i. Re-Appoint Tammie Rubin
- ii. Re-Appoint Jacob Villanueva

j. Nominated Commissioner Felipe Garza to the Downtown Commission

k. Approved the FY 20 Arts Commission meeting schedule

- l. 5 Arts Commission Working Groups were established to review and present recommendations on the following items:**
 - i. Working group to revise the donation and loan policy with Commissioner Barnes as chair, and commissioners Polgar and Flores
 - ii. Core and Cultural Heritage Festivals guidelines working group with Commissioner Flores as chair, and Commissioners Barnes, Polgar, Zisman
 - iii. Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP) Joint Arts & Music Working Group with Commissioners Polgar, Zisman and Fonte
 - iv. Funding Matrix Working Group with commissioners Polgar, Flores (chair), Garza and Zisman, and Art in Public Places Panel Member Tammy Rubin
 - v. Community Initiatives Guidelines Working Group with Commissioners Polgar, Flores, and Fonte serving as chair

- m. 4 Arts Commission Working Groups presented reports:**
 - i. Joint Arts and Music Land Development and Permitting Working Group
 - ii. Joint Arts and Music Creative Space Bond Working Group
 - iii. Core and Cultural Heritage Festivals Guidelines Working Group
 - iv. FY 21 Funding Matrix Working Group

- n. Arts Commission received the following Staff Briefings:**
 - i. Public Participation Principles, presented by Cara Welch and Marion Sanchez, City of Austin Communications and Public Information Office
 - ii. City's definition of Equity, presented by Brion Oaks, City of Austin Equity Office
 - iii. Cultural Funding Program Review Process, MJR Partners, presented by Alberto Mejia, Cultural Arts Division, Cultural Funding and Investments Program Manger
 - iv. Hotel Occupancy Tax report, presented by Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Deputy Director, Economic Development
 - v. Capacity Building Applications, presented by Laura Odegaard, Cultural Arts Funding Program Specialist
 - vi. Briefing on a recommendation to Austin City Council on the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs, presented by Kim McKnight, Acting Assistant Director
 - vii. 86th Legislative Session Update, presented by Brie Franco, Intergovernmental Relations Officer
 - viii. Hotel Occupancy Tax report, presented by Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Deputy Director, Economic Development
 - ix. Capacity Building Applications, presented by Laura Odegaard, Cultural Arts Funding Program Specialist
 - x. CSAP Awards, Kim McC Carson, Music and Entertainment Division

- xi. Hotel Occupancy Tax report, presented by Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Deputy Director, Economic Development
- xii. CSAP Awards, Kim McCarson , Music and Entertainment Division
- xiii. Hotel Occupancy Tax report, presented by Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Deputy Director, Economic Development
- xiv. Update on Marketing Allocation by Alberto Mejia, Program Manager, Cultural Funding & Investments
- xv. Cultural Funding Review Update by Alberto Mejia, Program Manager, Cultural Funding & Investments
- xvi. Hotel Occupancy Tax report, presented by Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Deputy Director, Economic Development
- xvii. Cultural Funding Review Process Update by Alberto Mejia
- xxviii. Cultural Funding Program Review Process Update, presented by Cultural Arts Division Staff
- xix. Hotel Occupancy Tax report, presented by Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Deputy Director, Economic Development
- xx. Cultural Funding Review Process, presented by Alberto Mejia
- xxi. Creative Space Assistance Program update, Kim McCarson, Music and Entertainment Division
- xxii. UNESCO Media Arts Exhibition and Faces of Austin 2020, Laura Odegaard, Art in Public Places
- xxiii. Cultural Funding Review Process, Alberto Mejia, Cultural Arts Funding Program Manager
- xxiv. Art in Public Places Artist Selection Process 20 Equity Report, Art in Public Places Staff
- xxv. Impact of SXSW on Hotel Occupancy Tax, Sylnovia Holt-Rabb
- xxvi. Cultural Funding Review Process (MJR) update, Meghan Wells
- xxvii. FY20 Cultural Funding update, Meghan Wells
- xxviii. CSAP update, Kim McCarson
- xxix. Creative Space Bond update, Meghan Wells and Mark Gilbert Austin Economic Injury Bridge Loan Program
- xxx. Presentation on Hotel Occupancy Tax, Sylnovia Holt-Rabb
- xxxi. FY21 Cultural Funding update, Meghan Wells
- xxxii. Visit Austin marketing partnership, Peggy Ellithorpe
- xxxiii. CARES Act Presentation, Sylnovia Holt-Rabb
- xxxiv. FY21 Cultural Funding update, Meghan Wells
- xxxv. George W. Carver Cultural Center's virtual Juneteenth Celebration
- xxxvi. FY 21 Cultural Funding update, Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager

o. Arts Commission received the following special presentations:

- i. Lucy Gross, Sage Studio
- ii. Cynthia Ayala and Elizabeth Mikeska, Co-Lab Community Makers
- iii. TK Tunchez, Frida Friday ATX
- iv. Dance Africa Fest – Tonya Pennie

- v. NowPlayingAustin.com – Austin Creative Alliance
- vi. Austin Creative Alliance – John Riedie & Board of Directors
- vii. EastLink presented by Meredith Powell, Co-Founder, Public City
- viii. Save Palm School Coalition, members
- ix. MJR Associates, Margie Reese
- x. Creek Show, Donald Miller, Programming & Events Manager for Waterloo Greenway
- xi. Ammon Taylor, individual artist
- xii. Nikki Devaughn, individual artist
- xiii. Renee Rice, Armadillo Art Bazaar, Passport to Art
- xiv. Alex Alford, Austin Shakespeare
- xv. Strategic Themes Presentation, presented by Margie Reese, MJR Consultants
- xvi. 2020 Census, John Lawler, Travis County Census Program Manager
- xvii. Pooja Kumar, Founder of Guardia Vieja,
- xviii. Isai Chacon, co-Founder of Flamencura Music and Dance and A'Lante Flamenco

- p. Held 4 Special Called Meetings:**
 - i. Joint Arts and Music Commission Meeting – Saturday, November 16, 2019, 11:00 A.M.
 - ii. MJR Consultants Strategic Themes Presentation – Monday, January 13, 2020, 6:00 P.M.
 - iii. Special Called Meeting to discuss FY 21 Funding Matrix – Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 1:00 P.M.
 - iv. Special Called Meeting to approve FY 21 Funding Matrix – Friday, June 26, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

 - q. Approved a motion to allow chair of the Joint Arts and Music Land Development and Permitting working group to go before the planning commission to share the Joint Arts and Music Land Development and Permitting Working Group recommendation**

 - r. Approved joint Arts and Music Commission resolution to Planning Commission**

 - s. Approved Arts Commission FY 19 Annual Internal Review and FY 20 Goals**

 - t. Approve recommendation by staff to limit cultural arts funding decreases by 11% for Cultural Heritage Festivals Program**
- 2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

The Arts Commission's actions are in compliance with the mission statement.

The Commission continues to advise Council on arts related matters and provide oversight of the Cultural Arts Funding Programs and the Art in Public Places Program.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

a. Incorporate the FOUR PILLARS into all Arts Commission Programs

- i. Cultivate Leadership – develop current and emerging leaders
- ii. Ensure and Encourage Equity – reflect the growing diverse population of Austin
- iii. Foster Collaboration – contribute to Austin's robust arts ecosystem
- iv. Inspire Evolution – achieve advancement through innovation and resiliency

b. GOAL I. COUNCIL RELATIONS

Increase communication between Commission and Council in order to keep Council abreast of Arts Commission duties and actions.

Objectives:

- a. Commissioners to meet face-to-face at least quarterly with appointing Council Member ** except during period of shelter in place orders in effect
- b. Commissioners to communicate monthly with their Council Member's staff
- c. Commission to monitor the activity of the Council Economic Opportunity Committee and become involved as needed
Educate new Council Members about the Cultural Arts Division and goals of its programs, including Civic Arts, Cultural Funding Programs and Art in Public Places

c. GOAL II. CULTURAL ARTS FUNDING

Maintain oversight of Cultural Arts Funding to ensure appropriate distribution and use.

Objectives:

- a. On a monthly basis, monitor Cultural Arts Funding to ensure appropriate use
- b. Review and recommend for appropriate action all cultural funding program applications
- c. Review all recommended Art in Public Places projects and recommend appropriate action
- d. Encourage collaboration among arts organizations through policies and guidelines to maximize resources, effectiveness, productivity and quality of work, minimize fracturing among arts groups, and increase the overall impact of cultural arts funding in arts community

- e. Review funding program guidelines annually and revise as needed.

d. GOAL III. PUBLIC ART

Maintain support for the Art in Public Places program

Objectives:

- a. On a monthly basis, take action on project or program recommendations from staff or the Art in Public Places Panel
- b. Build a strong framework of understanding and communication between the Arts Commission and the Art in Public Places Panel

e. GOAL IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintain a robust working knowledge and understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Arts Commission by all Commissioners

Objectives:

- a. Orient any newly appointed Commissioners on the role of the Arts Commission through the use of the Arts Commission orientation document upon appointment
- b. Conduct an annual Arts Commission all-day retreat
- c. Review goals quarterly to track progress

f. GOAL V. LIAISON GROUPS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ensure appropriate representation and working relationship with all Liaison groups and other related Boards and Commissions through meeting attendance and presentations

Objectives:

- a. Select representatives to serve on the following groups:
 - i. Art in Public Places Panel
 - ii. Downtown Commission
 - iii. Other working groups and assignments as needed
- b. Build and maintain a stronger working relationship with Arts in Public Places Panel, Music Commission and other Liaison groups
- c. Each Commissioner will attend a related Boards & Commissions regular meeting, (i.e. Music Commission, Library, African American Quality of Life, etc.) at least once per year.

g. GOAL VI. CULTURAL CONTRACTORS

Maintain a strong relationship and understanding of all Cultural contractors

Objectives:

- a. Each Commissioner will attend a minimum of 12 cultural contractor performances/exhibits per year
- b. Each Commissioner will attend a minimum of 1 Art in Public Places project dedication per year

h. GOAL VII. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Maintain a strong working relationship and increase engagement with local arts organizations and communities – especially historically underserved (BIPOC) and marginalized (including LGBTQ and Disability) communities.

Objectives:

- a. Increase communications about upcoming Commission meetings and cultural arts funding.
- b. Establish better working relationships with various arts organizations around Austin including ACA, AMP, and Big Medium (others) by regular outreach and communication through social media and other means
- c. Each Commissioner to invite at least 2 cultural contractors or new arts organization to attend and present at a regular Commission meeting
- d. Conduct special outreach to *historically underserved (BIPOC) and marginalized (including LGBTQ and Disability) Communities* about opportunities and funding available through the Cultural Arts Division

i. GOAL VIII. ISSUES AND ADVOCACY

Advocate on behalf of Arts constituents and increase their awareness of the function and role of the Arts Commission and of the importance of their own participation and engagement.

Objectives:

- a. Increase our understanding of the pulse of the arts community's needs and issues by attending community events
- b. Raise awareness and increase communication with constituents through social media and face-to-face networking about issues before the Commission and City Council related to the Arts.
- c. Encourage participation of all arts groups and communities on issues before the Commission and Council on an ongoing basis.
- d. Bring concerns of the arts community before Council through appropriate actions and communications
- e. Address issues facing the arts communities including but not limited to affordability, transportation, quality of life, and venue preservation and propose comprehensive recommendations for solutions and actions to Council
- f. Seek funding for continuation of the Arts Space Assistance Program

j. GOAL IX. DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT

Deepen Relationship and responsiveness to representative districts

Objectives:

- a. Continue to propose suggestions for community outreach and inclusion aimed at making meetings more accessible and vital to the districts represented

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c. Track and analyze the projects/artists funded by district as well as other demographics such as race, gender and sexual identity to best ensure equitable distribution of funding, projects, and programming throughout the districts to the extent possible.