

RESOLUTION NO. 20210610-092

WHEREAS, Austin's nonprofit organizations engaged in arts and culture have been deeply impacted by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2020, the Austin City Council created the Nonprofit Relief Grant Program designed to provide relief to Austin's nonprofit organizations, and the arts funding applications were oversubscribed; and

WHEREAS, Austin's creative sector continues to struggle with unmet needs, and many organizations did not receive funding from previous rounds of city relief programs, and nonprofit organizations were not eligible for Legacy Business Relief Grants; and

WHEREAS, the federal government created the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) to provide relief funding to venues that have suffered economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin will receive \$188 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2021, City Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to explore funding in an amount not to exceed \$25 million from the American Rescue Plan, General Revenue, and other city, state, and federal funding sources, to stabilize the Austin cultural arts and music communities; and

WHEREAS, final determinations regarding the City's plan for full ARPA spending have not yet been made, and Austin's nonprofit organizations engaged in arts and culture would benefit from immediate relief without delay; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to add no less than \$2 million to the Nonprofit Relief Grant Program fund that was previously activated for the support of arts-related nonprofit organizations through Resolution No. 20200507-023, which created the Austin Nonprofit and Civic Health Organizations Relief (ANCHOR) Fund. This allocation is to be funded through Austin's allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and is to be used to provide relief for nonprofit organizations engaged in arts and culture.

The City Manager is directed to execute funding using baseline criteria used in Phase II of the Nonprofit Relief Grant Program, and to incorporate additional points for qualifying organizations that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Have not received funding from earlier City relief programs aimed at nonprofits and businesses;
2. Operates a creative space and provides co-location opportunities for other arts organizations or for individual artists;
3. Employs five or more people.

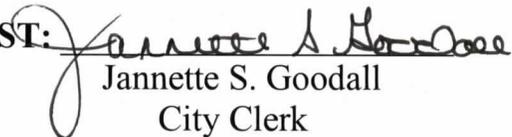
If timing aligns, the City Manager should identify organizations that receive funding from the federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program and prioritize those that do not receive funding from that source.

If ARPA guidelines allow, the City Manager is directed to consider updating the Nonprofit Relief Grant program guidelines to allow for reimbursement for loss of sales, revenue, and donations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide an update to Council on the implementation of this resolution no later than June 30, 2021.

ADOPTED: June 10, 2021

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk