

# Cultural Arts Funding Update

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**Economic  
Development**  
CITY OF AUSTIN

# We are listening! What we've heard in just one week:

- How can program funds be used?
- Mechanics and selection of review panels/panelists
- Scoring and points, especially as relate to applicant demographics
- What does “Nexus” stand for?
- What is the Thrive cohort model?
- How does fiscal sponsorship work in the new programs?
- What is “community focus” as we've mentioned?
- Who defines “equity”?
- Where does my organization fit into these new programs?
- Where do I as an individual artist fit into these new programs?
- Can we apply for more than one program?
- What are the deadlines to apply?
- Will there be a limit to how many years a contractor can be funded?
- Do these programs prioritize first-time and historically marginalized applicants?
- Is race the only factor that is considered in the eligibility or scoring?

# What is the data telling us?

## Sources of data:

- Equitable Economic Resiliency Framework (released summer 2020), contains national and local disaggregated data on economic conditions for BIPOC community members
- Cultural Funding Program historical data (including how many contractors are funded and at what budget and award levels on the whole and for each program, demographic breakdowns, award requests compared to contract awards, matrix variables, numbers and demographics of new applicants)
- City Equity Office and City Office of Design and Delivery studies
- Grantmakers in the Arts/Americans for the Arts/Bloomberg - equitable cultural programming/funding/grantmaking
- Peer cities
- Contractor feedback to staff and MJR (Interim Report)
- Contractor feedback to contract administrators over the years
- Arts Commission Funding Working Group historical dialogue
- Lessons learned from past programs and pilots

# What are the next steps/things to remember?

- CAD will continue to solicit and assess community feedback through 8/31/21– we are building on our work so far, but nothing is set in stone
  - <https://bit.ly/thrivenexus>
- Discussions about HOT and ARPA are separate but related: (HOT – long-term sustainability; ARPA – immediate relief)
- Govt support is limited (continue to work with the Arts Commission Working Group looking at alternative funding)
- We are in Stage 5, and it is placing constraints on events/travel that were factored into the projected HOT Funds for FY22
- Equity journeys look different for everyone but the goal is the same
- Talk to each other – this community is stronger together and has more in common than differences; seek out someone who has a different perspective than yours

# Questions?