



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Recommendation Number: 20210907-3d.1: Support for Creative Space
Project

WHEREAS the African American Resource Advisory Commission (the "Commission") is authorized by Austin City Code § 2-1-101 to advise the City Council on issues related to the quality of life for the City's African American community; and

WHEREAS the Commission is specifically authorized to recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits, including (1) health care; (2) housing, including affordable housing, home ownership, and homelessness; (3) entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; (4) employment; and (5) cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries, and music venues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has invested significant resources in developing and executing initiatives that help accelerate the growth of the Creative Arts industry infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, collectively, Austin's Creative Arts ecosystem generates productive, social, cultural and economic benefit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has detailed Strategic Direction 2023 to "strive to create a complete community where every Austinite has choices at every stage of life that allow us to experience and contribute to all of the following outcomes: Economic Opportunities, Mobility, Safety, Health and Environment, Culture and Life-long learning, and Government that Works for All of Us"; and

WHEREAS, March 2017, the Mayor's Task Force issued a report on Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities that is inclusive of a list of recommendations aimed at the dismantling of institutional racism and systemic inequities in the City of Austin and the Austin region; and

WHEREAS, African Americans account for 8% of the population in Travis County, 13% of African Americans live below the poverty line, 34% of the homeless population are African Americans and 25% of those serving sentences in Travis County Jail are African American men and women. In addition, 34% of children in low-income homes do not receive any learning support services while African American children make up 90% of children in low-income homes, and over 95% of brain development occurring in children by the age of 5; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is the fastest growing metropolitan city with a declining African American population; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2020, Mayor Steve Adler highlighted the institutional racism and systemic inequities that exist in our community and across the country, and referenced actions taken by other southern cities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Economic Development Department Cultural Arts Division (CAD) began the process of reimagining the deployment of Hotel Occupancy Tax funding the Fall of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's CAD, in the Summer of 2020, released the Equitable Economic Resiliency Framework which contained national and local disaggregated data on economic conditions for BIPOC Community members; and

WHEREAS, the deployment of the Cultural Arts Fund followed the Economic Resiliency Framework for FY21; and

WHEREAS, the Cultural Arts Division released new guidelines for the reimagining of the deployment of Cultural Arts Funds in December 2020 through Nexus, Thrive and Elevate; and

WHEREAS, the historical data presented to Council on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, clearly showed the historical inequities of the funding model, with 80% of the funding being presented to White lead organizations though the City of Austin which is now majority people of color; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the African American Resource Advisory Commission recommends that the City Council direct the City Manager to continue the work of the equitable funding model and quickly approve guidelines that reflect the City's commitment to equity as outlined in Strategic Direction 2023, and that

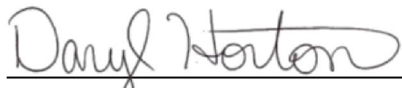
this City Manager return to the City Council in 30 days with a plan of action to implement the new funding guidelines that center on equity.

I affirm this recommendation was approved by the African American Resource Advisory Commission.

Vote: 10 in favor 0 not in favor

Absent: 3 – Cherelle Vanbrakle – Quincy Dunlap – Ellen Sweets

Vacant: 2 – District 1 & 6



Daryl Horton

African American Resource Advisory Commission - Chair

September 20, 2021

Date