



**Date:** July 25, 2023

**Attention:** Planning Commission

**Subject:** July 25th, 2023, Agenda Item 22,  
C20-2022-022 Live Music Venue & Creative Space Definitions

Commissioners:

**The Joint Arts & Music Urban Core Land Use Working Group** was formed to study and provide recommendations for City-involved real estate development. The Arts and Music Commissions recognize that land use planning is immensely critical to the sustainability and growth of Austin's music and cultural arts economies.

Our working group has identified the combination of zoning and developer incentives as a powerful tool for preserving and developing creative space in Austin. We have carefully reviewed and discussed the proposed plan presented by Donald Jackson of the Economic Development Department regarding zoning categories and cultural districts.

**We strongly support the Live Music Venue and Creative Space Definitions, amendments to City Code Title 25 (LDC) related to live performance venues, creative spaces, and live/work units. We ask that the Planning Commission approve of these amendments.** In addition, we support City staff's work to establish a future Creative Space Bonus Program and look forward to ongoing communications with staff and community stakeholders.

It is our belief that creative spaces make good neighbors and can be beneficial to the adjacent neighborhoods. In discussions with central neighborhood stakeholders, we have learned there is support for live music venue amendment to the code, but a preference for indoor performance. In your discussion tonight, please carefully consider how to add an indoor provision, while exempting the Palm District which already includes outdoor music performance venues along Red River and at Waterloo Greenway.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.  
Sincerely,

**Joint Arts and Music Urban Core Land Use Working Group**

*Lauryn Gould, Music Commissioner*

*Acia Gray, Arts Commissioner*

*Monica Maldonado, Arts Commissioner*

*Anne-Charlotte Patterson, Music Commission vice-chair*

*Heidi Schmalbach, Arts Commission vice-chair*

*Mark Gilbert, Arup Development Consultancy*

*Gian Michael Piano, Presidium Real Estate*

*Stephani Stanley, Kadence Twelve Productions*

*Ryan Steglich, Steglich Consulting, Here Today Gone Tomorrow*

Cc: Nagavalli Medicharla Music Commission Chair, Celina Zisman Arts Commission Chair,  
Donald Jackson Economic Development Department