

The motion to:

1. recommend that the Austin City Council continue to waive fees for SXSW at Vic Mathias Shores for performances that pay musicians the City performance rate; and
2. recommend that the Austin City Council direct the City Manager, Legal Department, and all City Departments to continue contract negotiations with SXSW in good faith pursuit of fair and equitable pay for musicians; and
3. empower the Music Division of EDD to supplement pay for artists to match the City Performance rate at a limited number of SXSW-related events, meeting criteria that benefit Austin Music, and are free and open to the public.

1. WHEREAS, the type and amount of compensation paid to artists reflects our City's values and vision;

2. WHEREAS, In 2022 The City of Austin Music Commission raised its City Performance Rate from \$150 to \$200 per performance hour per musician for all musical performances funded by the City of Austin, based on an aspiration that the average full-time musician should be able to afford a sustainable lifestyle in Austin.

3. WHEREAS, as of July 2023, SXSW has a) raised the rates it will pay domestic showcasing artists to \$350 for bands and \$150 for solo artists for a festival set, an increase of \$100 for bands and \$50 for solo artists, b) improved access for artists opting for conference wristbands, making it equivalent to a music badge, and c) waived certain fees for members of HAAM.

4. WHEREAS, SXSW uses City of Austin park space for volunteer, ticketed, and community events, often free of charge.

5. The City of Austin waives fees associated with Vic Mathias Shores (aka Auditorium Shores), for use by SXSW, and where such fees amounted to \$23,430 in 2023;

6. WHEREAS, SXSW has created an international reputation for Austin as a singular international business and tourist destination that has brought in billions of economic impact dollars; and is one of the highest revenue-producing events for the Austin economy, with an estimated yearly economic impact ranging between \$280.7-\$355.9 million over it's past 5 editions;

7. WHEREAS, due to its influence on the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT), Austin MSA musicians will be receiving grants of \$5,000 and \$10,000 from the \$3.5m Live Music Fund, to be used at their discretion year-round; and, SXSW is directly responsible for a large portion of the Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) that have sustained Economic Development Department's Cultural Arts contracts for decades;

8. WHEREAS, SXSW largely guided Austin's music ecosystem to spotlight under-served Austin music genres and marginalized communities of color through its music showcase booking policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Music Commission:

1. Recommends that the Austin City Council in support of SXSW a locally-founded and operated business, continue to waive fees at Vic Mathias Shores so long as the contract **requires** compensation of US domestic musicians performing at the venue at the official City performance rate of \$200 per hour per musician, in addition to a premium all-access wristband;

2. Recommends the Austin City Council direct the City Manager, Legal Department, and the Parks & Recreation Department ensure that any contract negotiation between the City, PARD, and SXSW **recommend** fair pay of at least \$150 per musician for domestic artists performing at official SXSW-produced Showcases in which SXSW books the venue and hires musical performers, and that SXSW makes good-faith efforts to bring compensation of musical artists to levels of fair pay. Musicians may be offered the option of a premium all-access wristband instead; and

3. For certain SXSW-official or unofficial showcase performances of special value to Austin and Austin tourism, as determined by the Music Division of the Economic Development Department, the City of Austin pay artists the difference between their contracted rate and the official City performance rate of \$200 per musician per hour, if the performance is open and free to the general public.