Cultural Arts Funding Overview

Holistic Funding Ecosystem

Closed August 15

Nexus

Nurture new and emerging applicants by funding creative public projects developed through community activation and/or collaboration.

Panels start Wed. Aug 23

Elevate

Creative and administrative expenses of cultural producers that amplify equity and prioritize inclusive programming.

Thrive

Focused investment to sustain and grow arts organizations that are deeply rooted in, and reflective of Austin's diverse cultures.
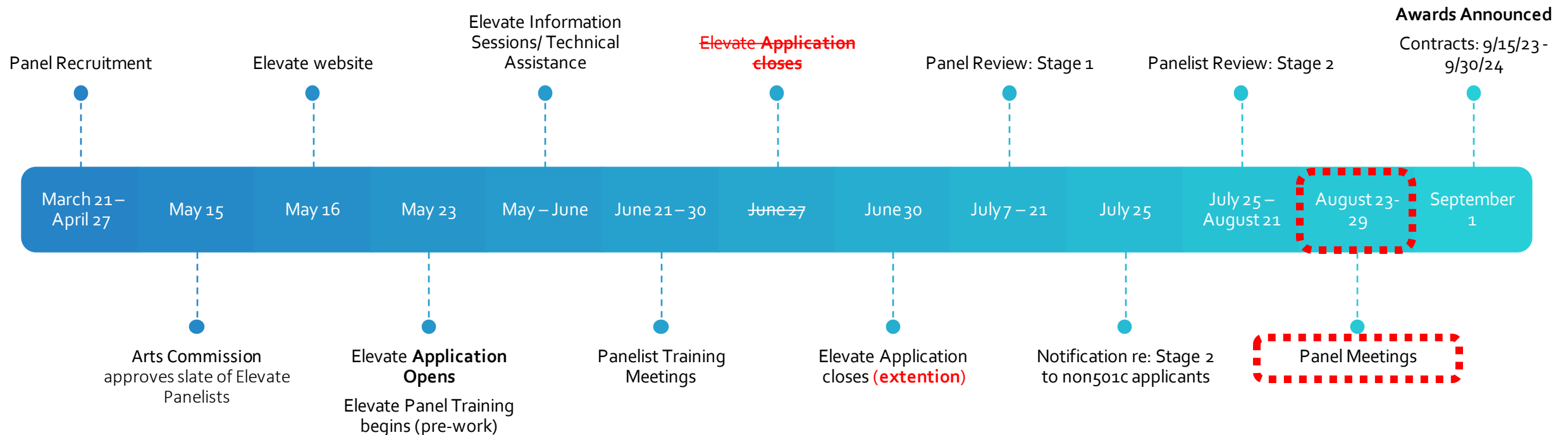
Pilot Program **Elevate** in Detail

	Elevate	
	Elevate (Non-501c)	Elevate+ (501c only)
Goal	**Support** established cultural producers	
Contract Term	1 year	1 year
Type of Funding	**Flexible**: Project/Operating	**Flexible**: Project/Operating
Who can apply?	Artists; Arts/Culture Groups w/ budgets <$500k	Arts/Culture **501(c)**s only
Selection Process	Panel	Panel
Total Available Funds	$1,250,000	$5,000,000
Award Amounts	**$10,000 - $25,000**	**$30,000 - $75,000**
Number of Awardees	**75**	**125**

Elevate Key Dates (*updated*)

Panel Recruitment

Elevate website

Elevate Information Sessions/ Technical Assistance

~~Elevate Application closes~~

Panel Review: Stage 1

Panelist Review: Stage 2

Awards Announced
Contracts: 9/15/23 - 9/30/24

| March 21 – April 27 | May 15 | May 16 | May 23 | May – June | June 21 – 30 | ~~June 27~~ | June 30 | July 7 – 21 | July 25 | July 25 – August 21 | August 23-29 | September 1 |

Arts Commission approves slate of Elevate Panelists

Elevate **Application Opens**

Elevate Panel Training begins (pre-work)

Panelist Training Meetings

Elevate Application closes (**extention**)

Notification re: Stage 2 to non501c applicants

Panel Meetings

First payment by end of September!

Elevate Highlights

5 Facilitators trained by June 20th

Panel Training
- **100 p**eople trained
- Orientation Materials (pre-work)
  - 3 hrs long; Independently
- **10 Group Training Meetings**
  - June 21st – 30th
  - 2 hrs long; led by Facilitator
  - *"Congratulations on a great rubric and how you addressed nuances...wow... I feel like you all listened very carefully to organization feedback through the years"*

4 Spanish Applications Received

Applicant Assistance
- Weekly Open-Office Hours 10-Noon (hybrid)
  - **12 hours** total
- Virtual/In Person Workshops
  - **5 hours** Virtual Info-Workshops
  - **4 hours** In-Person Info-Workshops
  - **30 Hours** of Hybrid Drop-In Assistance
- **3-hour** session with ASL Interpreters
- **15+ hours** of dedicated Spanish support
- **263** people assisted in public meetings

Elevate Application Summary

762 applications **started**

487 applications successfully **submitted**

448 Unique/ Eligible applications (duplicates removed)

REVIEW Process

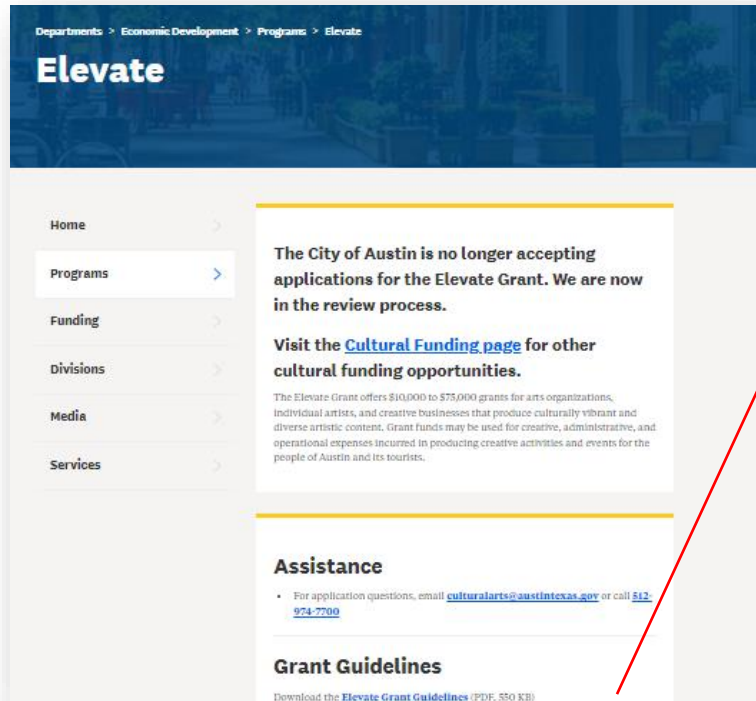| **265** non501c applications | All went to Stage 1 Review (Reader) | **127** will go to Stage 2 Review (Panel/Mtgs) | **75** will be awarded |

| **183** 501c applications | SKIP Stage 1 Review (Reader) | All are going to Stage 2 Review (Panel/Mtgs) | **125** will be awarded |

Elevate Stage 2: Panel Dates *(details)*

- Full Schedule
- Webinar Links
- Order of Review

Closed August 15

Pilot Program **Nexus** Overview

	Nexus
Goal	**Encourage** new talent
Contract Term	6 Months
Type of Funding	**Project** Funding Only
Who can apply?	Individuals/ Groups* (*cooperatives, non-profit organizations, businesses, partnerships, etc.)
Selection Process	3 COA Staff + Rubric
Total Available Funds	~$500,000
Award Amounts	**$5,000**
Number of Awardees	**100** *(50 per cycle; 2 cycles/year)*

www.austintexas.gov/Nexus

Nexus Timeline *(first cycle!)*

Application Opens		Application Closes		Award Announcements	
July 11	July 11 – August 15	August 15	Mid-September 2023	Last week of September 2023	October '23 – March '24
	Application Assistance!		Panel Meeting(s)		Contract terms
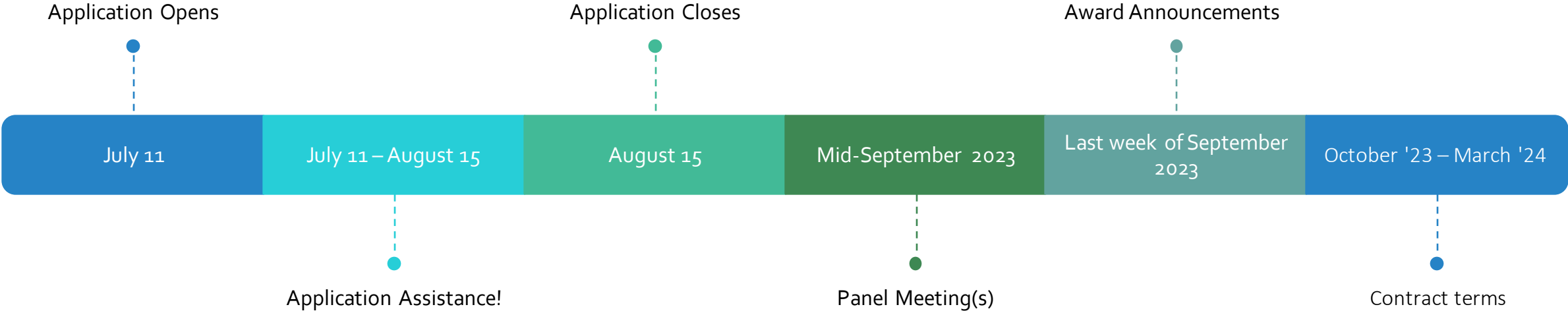
- **Cycle 2:** Application Opens **January 2024** (events April '24 – September '24); 50 awards
- **Cycle 3:** Application Opens **July 2024** (events October '24 – March '25); 50 awards

Nexus Highlights

6 Staff Reviewers
◦ 3 Cultural Funding Staff
◦ 3 Economic Development Staff

Panel Training
◦ Orientation Materials (pre-work)
  ◦ 3 hrs long; Independently

Elevate applicants applying in Nexus
◦ 103 total (42% of the applications in Nexus)
◦ 56 Nexus applicants have advanced to the Elevate panel (23% of Nexus applicants)

1 Spanish Applications Received

Applicant Assistance
◦ Weekly Open-Office Hours 10-Noon (hybrid)
  ◦ **15 hours** total
◦ Virtual/In Person Workshops
  ◦ **6.5 hours** Virtual/In-Person Info-Workshops
  ◦ **21 Hours** of Hybrid Drop-In Assistance
◦ **2-hour** session with ASL Interpreters
◦ **4+ hours** of dedicated Spanish support
◦ **275+** people assisted in public events

Nexus Application Summary

619 applications **started**

295 applications successfully **submitted**

244 Unique/ Eligible applications (duplicates removed)

REVIEW Process

244 eligible applications → All will be staff reviewed → 6 Economic Development Department Staff → Elevate recipients will be removed from review → 50 will be awarded end of September

Now Open: Arts Education Grant!

- Funds come from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants to Local Arts Agencies for Subgranting
- **19** Awards to Arts Education Non-Profits
- **$25,000** flat grant
- Application Opened: Tuesday, **August 8** at 10am
- Application Deadline: Tuesday, **September 12** at 5pm
- Panel review: **September 27th**
- Award announcements: **September 29th**
- Community Partner: **MINDPOP**

KEY ELEMENTS

- This program funds **arts education non-profits**
- Arts Education activities **primarily serve** participants **from early childhood through 18 years**
- **At least 50% of the award must be paid to teaching artists** providing direct services to students