



Overview Report

September 5, 2023

Pamela Benson Owens
CEO



When I say the word culture,
what comes to mind?

The Core Pillars of Six Square: Advocacy for total well being for Black Austinites

Arts (visual, culinary, digital, music, performance)

History (tours, preservation and conservation)

Culture (economic development, education/youth, advocacy, health –mental, physical, living/quality of life, access, workforce development, etc.)

When We Say “the six” this is what we mean

The streets and boundaries that define the district:

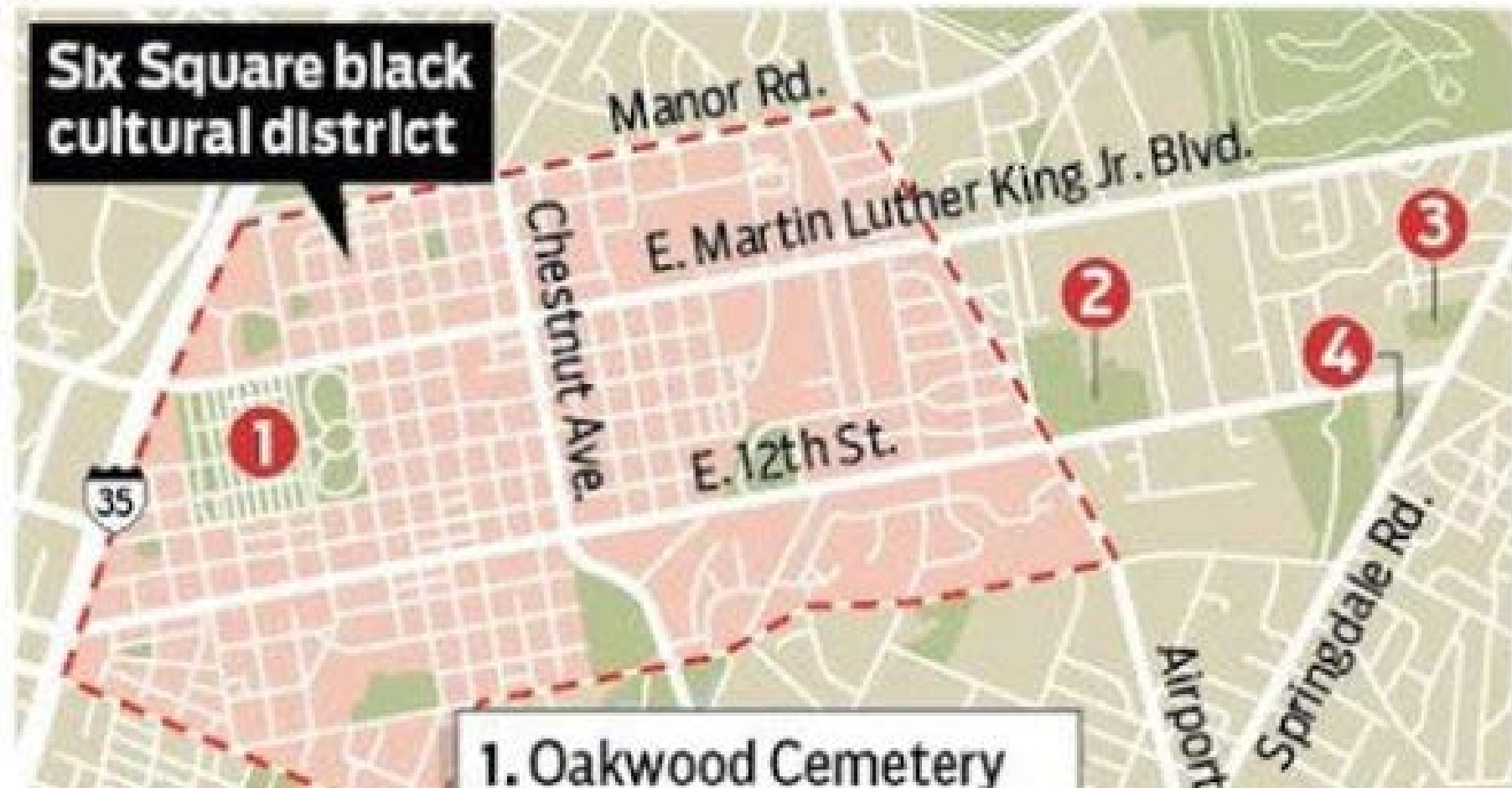
Manor Road to the North

Airport Blvd to the East

Oak Springs, Rosewood, 7th and 11th to the South

IH-35 to the West

protect other historic sites.



“Going Beyond the Canvas” Means

- The static nature of producing art shows, programming, culinary events that do not directly tie to an additional way to create access or equity (scholarships, internships, residencies, etc.)
- Leveraging the expansive reach of arts and culture to support , remove obstacles and uplift artists, creatives, entrepreneurs, and leaders of color in a city that has an ongoing dwindling Black population
- To cultivate cross cultural collaborations and partnerships to create accessible paths of equity and inclusion inside and outside of the Black Cultural Arts District
- To preserve culture, and converse history, including monuments, buildings, etc., in the district
- To advocate for equity and inclusion in all aspects of life and culture for Black Austinites from education to economic development and total wellness
- To support programs and the work of Black led organizations that center the arts as a way to create awareness and learning opportunities, employment opportunities, enjoyment and a psychologically and physically safe place for Black people to gather



Writing letters of support for organizations in the six to get grant support



Being a fiscal sponsor to organizations doing work in the community but don't have infrastructure built



Cross cultural collaborations that foster relationship building and awareness



Extending financial support to events, projects, initiatives that support key organizational pillars

What does a culture of support and collaboration look like at for a cultural arts district like Six Square?

Six Square Criteria- Cultural Norms...

Market

- Market arts and culture attractions to Austinites and visitors

Promote and encourage

- Promote and encourage artists, entrepreneurs, and creative businesses (expanding the concept of arts and culture)

Promote

- Promote tourism and increase visitation (staycations included)

Improve

- Improve the quality of life for residents (from housing to health care)

Strengthen

- Strengthen distinctive character of communities

Assist in

- Assist in driving economic growth and navigating disparity/residue of 1928 plan and gentrification (example tax abatement)

Contribute

- Contribute to, cultivate, build, support and preserve Austin's cultural assets

Highlight

- Highlight culture and history of your community



Staff and Board Leadership

Quincy Dunlap- Board Chair

Willie Johnson- Past Chair

Jacqueline Hawkins- Secretary

Tracy Calloway

Freddie B. Dixon- Emeritis

Pamela Benson Owens- CEO

Damon Johnson- CFO

Jalen Howard- Director of Communications/Digital

Selina Aguirre- Donor Relations/Database

Kristine Lafond- Executive Assistant




 **SATURDAY
APRIL 9
10am-12pm**

Ceremonial Moment
of Silence & Splash

HONORING
**Joan Means
Khabele**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DAY GALA 2022

AFTERPARTY

45TH
AUSTIN AREA
URBAN LEAGUE

**DEC 3
9:30PM**

HILTON AUSTIN
500 E 4TH ST, AUSTIN, TX 78701

DJ MANNIE FRESH

TICKETS \$100 PLEASE VISIT WWW.AAUL.ORG/EVENTS TO PURCHASE
*GALA TICKETHOLDERS CAN UPGRADE TICKET FOR \$50 TO ATTEND



Community Partners:


Long Center Presents
**A Conversation with
Ta-Nehisi Coates**
JAN 16 | 7:30PM



RODEO AUSTIN
RODEO AUSTIN IS A NON-PROFIT, MONTH LONG REAL WESTERN EXPERIENCE
RAISING MILLIONS FOR TEXAS KIDS.



PRORODEO & BOYZ II MEN
MARCH 23, 2022

VISIT RODEOAUSTIN.COM
TO PURCHASE TICKETS

\$30 - PRORODEO & CONCERT
TICKET

\$10 ADULT FAIRGROUNDS
ADMISSION
\$5 CHILD FAIRGROUNDS
ADMISSION

GRITTY FUN
MARCH 12-26, 2022
KICK OPEN THE CHUTES MARCH 11, 2022 | FAIRGROUNDS OPEN DAILY AT 10 AM



FREE 2 DAY
VIRTUAL EVENT
LED BY
FATIMA MANN
& SIX SQUARE ATX

DAY 1: JUNE 8th
9AM - 4PM
DAY 2: JUNE 9th
9AM - 12PM



Dream Awake

LEADERS OF COLOR
Healing & Reconciliation Retreat



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

FORKLIFT FANTASIA

THE **SHAPE
OF WATER**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
7-11PM AT SYMPHONY SQUARE**

YOUTH FILM POETRY WORKSHOP

SCAN ME





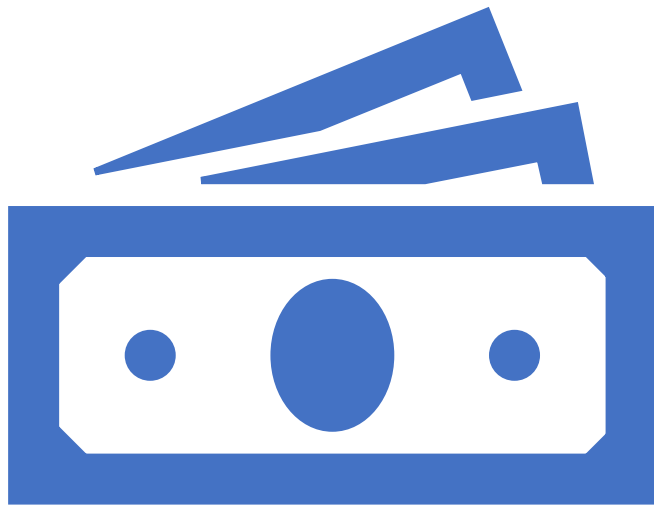
**APRIL 30
& MAY 1, 2022**

Free & open to all youth in 7th - 12th grade who reside in Central Texas.
Workshop in partnership with Austin School of Film and supported through the



The Stats

- Supported over 50 organizations overall
- Launch of collaborations 26 collaborations
- Created paid work opportunities for around 252 artists and creatives
- Disbursed \$158,000 in support/community outreach
- Tours- 82 people (still rebounding from covid) \$3230
- Collaborated cross culturally and established new ecosystems of equitable support, challenged norms around having to prove and convince, and created new supporters by programming in cross cultural venues intentionally

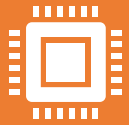


The Leverage Point

Funds are leveraged in a few ways:

- a. Directly financially support projects that create scale and use arts and creativity to educate, create economic development, health and wellness, awareness, advocacy and social justice
- b. Pipeline to create jobs and strongly suggested that large for-profit and non-profits use vendors, artists and creatives of color
- c. To create support for educational growth, certifications, etc., by doing scholarships to programs offered at ACC's Center for Non-profit Studies
- d. Supporting projects specifically geared toward growth, mitigating gentrification, creative space making, beautification/public art etc.

In The Six and Out



80% of our programming is in the district



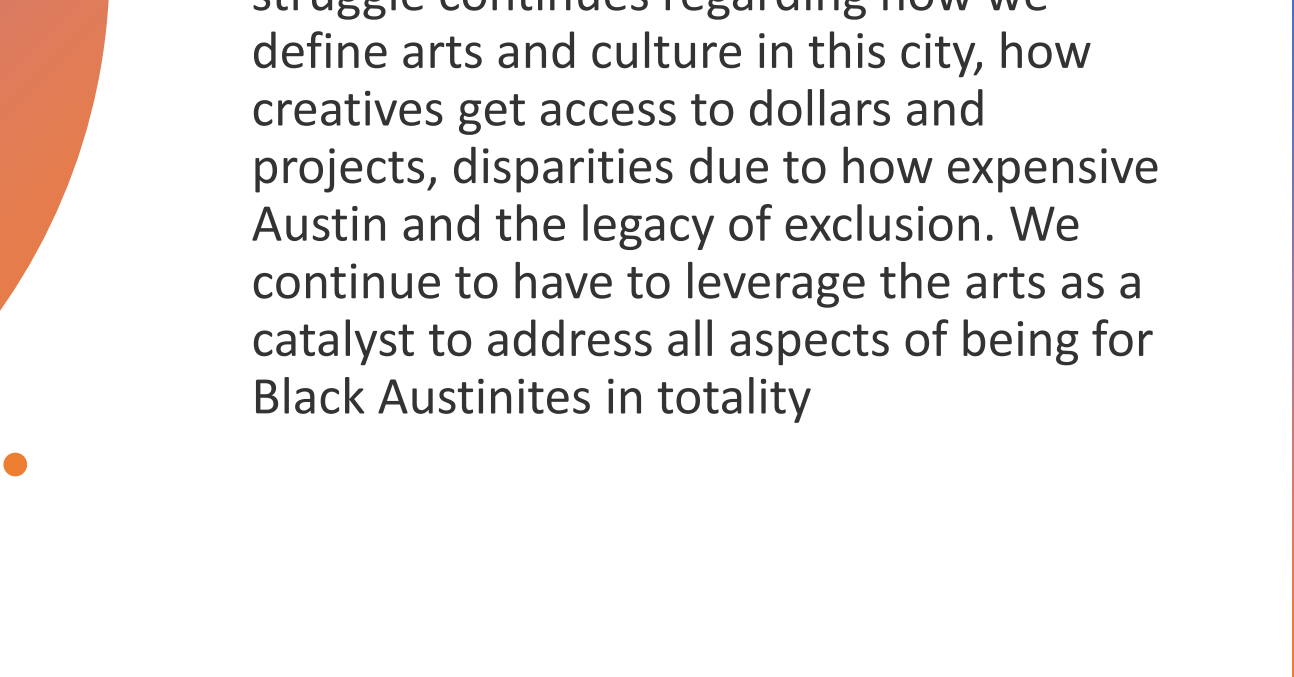
20% is out of the district



AND..... we will be doing more out of district programming because our mission is centered around Black people. Gentrification has pushed people of color to other areas- and we are not going to be inactive because of it. We are going to the people, preserving what is left on the East side, and venturing into the spaces that are perceived as “not made for us”



What Worked, What Didn't?

- We remained people focused, removed obstacles, provided sourcing, got creative with how to support and deliver programming (pandemic transitions, scarcity mentality, general distrust between arts focused organizations, the back kick of legacy organizations thinking they were already doing equity, etc.)
 - What changed? **Nothing much.** The struggle continues regarding how we define arts and culture in this city, how creatives get access to dollars and projects, disparities due to how expensive Austin and the legacy of exclusion. We continue to have to leverage the arts as a catalyst to address all aspects of being for Black Austinites in totality
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Questions?