



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

(This report is due in the first quarter of each fiscal year for the previous year.)

Music Commission

(Official Name of Board or Commission)

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

- A. The Music Commission membership should reflect the various areas of interest and expertise of the Austin music community and industry and the diversity of the Austin music community and industry. Commissioners may be selected from representatives of membership-based music organizations, music-related professional services, club owners or operators, the media, and artists in the field of music.
 - B. The commission advises the city council on music economic development issues.
 - C. The commission duties are advisory and include:
 1. studying the development of the music industry, and assisting in the implementation of programs to meet the needs created by the development of the industry;
 2. holding public hearings on matters that affect the music community and industry in Austin, and making recommendations on the matters to the city council; and
 3. reviewing other matters that may affect the music industry in Austin and that may enable Austin's musicians to achieve national status while remaining in Austin, and making appropriate recommendations to city council.
 - D. The city manager shall administer, supervise, and enforce all contracts relating to the Music Channel. The city manager shall inform the commission of any developments relating to the commission's advisory duties.
1. **Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

Recommendations

May 1, 2023: Music Commission Recommends Historic Zoning for Broken Spoke:

The Music Commission recommended that the building at 3201 S. Lamar Blvd, occupied by the Broken Spoken dancehall since 1964, be zoned historic by the City of Austin, thereby preserving the current structure, and conferring eligibility for preservation-related grants.

April 4, 2023: Music Commission budget recommendations for FY23-24: The Music Commission, in support of the music community, recommended that the Austin City Council designate a minimum \$3.36 Million investment for FY24 to fuel Austin music industry growth and support the music community. The commissions recommended that the funds be invested in:

- Fiscal support for the Austin Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) in the amount of \$2.5 Million per year for 2 years from the City General Fund
- Fiscal support for Music and Entertainment Division musician performance program in the amount of \$90,000 for FY24 from the City General Fund
- Initiation and fiscal support for a new disaster-related Stormy Weather Fund – financial compensation for musicians and music workers demonstrating financial loss caused by declared disaster emergencies and resulting power failures, in the amount of \$800,000 per year ongoing, subject to adjust based on frequency of emergencies (to be funded by Austin Energy Annual Revenue

February 7, 2023: Third-party administration of the Live Music Fund Program:

The Music Commission recommended to City Council approval of a contract with The Long Center to administer the Live Music Fund and Elevate grants and provide program success metrics, within a specified cost and timeline. The recommendation included directives that

- Administrative fees over 5 years are not to exceed \$4.475M
- Of the grant programs administered, the long-awaited Live Music Fund Program will be the first to launch, with the application portal open Spring 2023 and fund disbursements beginning in Summer 2023
- The Long Center will implement a feedback mechanism for applicants and grantees to evaluate program success, and then present findings to the Music Commission

February 7, 2023: Live Music Fund Program appropriations: The Music Commission recommended to City Council that the FY23 appropriations to the Live Music Fund Program be increased to a total of \$4.1 Million in FY23 inclusive of administrative fees.

April 8, 2023: Joint Music and Arts Commission Meeting

The Joint Music and Arts Commission meeting involved discussions on land use, Cultural Arts Division and Music & Entertainment Division funding programs, annual budget recommendations, strategy to better support arts and culture service organizations and short-term rentals as they relate to Hotel Occupancy Tax fund collection.

The Joint Arts and Music Urban Core Land Use Working Group

The Joint Arts and Music Urban Core Land Use Working Group to recommend best practices and synergetic land use and code definitions to cohesively sustain and grow the music industry in Austin. The group helped advance land development code amendments to support music and creative spaces.

Budget & Bond Working Group

Budget & Bond Working Group to recommend priority funding needs to City Council during annual budget reviews as well as in the interim, as needed, to support and grow the music industry.

COTA (Circuit of the Americas) Disability Access Task Force

Music Commissioners served as members of the COTA Disability Access Task Force, alongside representatives of Travis County and the State of Texas. The effort culminated in major improvements including a redesign/rebuild of the COTA website to incorporate state-of-the-art accessibility, improved signage across all facilities, ticketing and seating adjustments, dedicated handling of ADA e-mails/requests, improved parking/parking transport, quadrupled ADA offsite transport during Race weekend and, designated ADA stations for their SuperStage concerts

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Commission Chair and Vice-chair confirm that the Music Commission operated within the scope of the bylaws.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- Live Music Fund program (LMF) –
 - Review outcomes/metrics from the 2023 pilot LMF program against program goals including support for musicians and independent promoters, support for underserved communities and broadened use of funds by musicians across the music ecosystem
 - Improve accessibility and ease of application for the next LMF program rollout based on feedback and metrics
 - Include venues in the next LMF program rollout
- Provide recommendations for all ages shows and how we support youth in Austin

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- Continue to engage with AEDC to identify and build on synergies to sustain and grow the music industry
- Establish best practices for music performances at Music Commission meetings
- Provide recommendations on musician parking, loading and unloading
- Music Census Survey
 - Leverage the 2022 Greater Austin Music Census Survey to provide recommendations to sustain and grow the music industry
 - Support continuity for a city-supported and music industry-expertise driven music census survey on a regular basis in future
- Continue engagement in the Joint Arts and Music Urban Core Land Use Group to recommend synergetic land use and code definitions to sustain and grow the music industry
- Continue engagement in Bond and Budget working group to make cohesive and actionable budget recommendations for music
- Continue broad engagement between the Arts and Music Commission to leverage synergies to benefit the music and creative sectors
- COTA Disability Access Task Force: Music Commissioners are partnering with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities to extend the task force and discuss best practices with several large venues