



**ARTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR CALLED MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 16, 2023**

**The ARTS COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR CALLED meeting on 16, October 2023 at Austin City Hall, Council Chambers, Room 1001. 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701**

**Commissioner Zisman called the ARTS COMMISSION Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.**

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Celina Zisman, Heidi Schmalbach, Kate Csillagi, Felipe Garza, Michael Vernusky, Acia Gray, Faiza Kracheni, Amy Mok**

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Monica Maldonado, Gina Houston, Nagavalli Medicharla**

**CURRENT COMMISSIONERS:**

Celina Zisman - Chair, Heidi Schmalbach - Vice Chair, Kate Csillagi, Monica Maldonado, Felipe Garza, Gina Houston, Michael Vernusky, Acia Gray, Faiza Kracheni, Amy Mok, Nagavalli Medicharla

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- Miriam Connor from Creative Policy spoke about their Community Art Bash event
- Amanda Hearn from Austin Symphonic Band spoke about their frustrations with the cultural funding process
- Rachel Rivera from SUREM spoke about the continuing and growing concerns about the Cultural Funding process
- Luis Ordaz from Proyecto Teatro spoke about spoke about their concerns with the timeline and lack of communication from The Long Center regarding their award payment distribution
- Maria Luisa Gutierrez from Proyecto Teatro spoke about their concerns with Spanish language access in the cultural funding grants application process

- Hector Ordaz From Proyecto Teatro spoke about their displeasure with the cultural funding process
- Jennifer Sherburn spoke about their frustrations with the cultural funding process

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Arts Commission Regular Meeting on September 18, 2023.  
**The minutes from the meeting of September 18, 2023 were approved on Commissioner Schmalbach motion, Commissioner Mok second on a 11-0 vote**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Discussion of Chair's Report on Community Input by Chair Zisman  
**A report was made by Commissioner Zisman**
3. Discussion of the Art in Public Places Liaison Report by Commissioner Gray  
**A report was provided by Commissioner Gray.**
4. Discussion of the Austin Economic Development Corporation/Cultural Trust Advisory Committee by Austin Economic Development Corporation Board Member Carl Settles  
**No report given**
5. Discussion of the Downtown Commission by Commissioner Mok  
**A report was made by Commissioner Mok**
6. Discussion of Timeline & Delays with CAD Funding by Commissioner Kracheni

**A motion to skip to Item 7 was approved on Commissioner Gray motion and Commissioner Maldonado second on a 11-0 vote**

**A report was made by Commissioner Kracheni**

### **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

7. Staff briefing regarding an update on the Hotel Occupancy Tax by Laura Odegaard, Cultural Investment Program Manager  
**The presentation was made by Laura Odegaard, Cultural Investment Program Manager**
8. Staff briefing regarding the Cultural Arts Funding Programs by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor, and Anne-Marie McKaskle-Davis, Cultural Funding Specialist Senior  
**The presentation was made by Meghan Wells Cultural Arts Division Manager, and Anne-Marie McKaskle-Davis, Cultural Funding Specialist Senior**

**Returned to Item 6**

## **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

9. Approve 2024 Arts Commission Meeting Schedule  
**A motion to approve Item 9 on Commissioner Gray motion, and Commissioner Maldonado second on a 11-0 vote**
10. Approve Deaccession of AIPP Artworks  
**No item discussed**
11. Appointment of a new AIPP Liaison  
**A motion to appoint Commissioner Maldonado as AIPP Liaison on Commissioner Mok motion, and Commissioner Gray second on a 11-0 vote**
12. Establish a Community Engagement Working Group  
**Commissioners Kracheni, Zisman, Houston, and Csillagi were appointed to the Community Engagement Working Group with Kracheni as Chair**
13. Establish an Appeals Working Group  
**A presentation was given by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor**

**Commissioners Zisman, Shmalbach, Garza, and Houston were appointed to the Community Engagement Working Group with Zisman as Chair**

## **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

14. Update from Emergency Funding and Proactive Strategies for Future Funding Working Group with Commissioners Schmalbach and Zisman (chair)  
**Update was given by Commissioner Zisman**
15. Update from joint Arts/Music Commission Working Group on Urban Core Issues with Commissioners Gray, Maldonado, and Schmalbach (chair).  
**Update was given by Commissioner Schmalbach**

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Items were shared**

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Zisman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 P.M. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the November 6, 2022 meeting on Commissioner Gray motion, Commissioner Schmalbach second on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Houston, Medicharla, Garza, and Mok absent