



**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of the ARTS COMMISSION**

**January 29, 2024, at 6:00 PM**

**Austin Energy, Mueller Assembly Rm 1111a (115).**

**4815 Mueller Blvd, Austin, TX 78723**

**The ARTS COMMISSION convened in a SPECIAL CALLED meeting on 29, January 2024 at Austin Energy, Mueller Assembly Rm 1111a (115). 4815 Mueller Blvd, Austin, TX 78723**

**Commissioner Schmalbach called the ARTS COMMISSION Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.**

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Heidi Schmalbach, Michael Vernusky, Kate Csillagi**

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

**Board Members Absent: Acia Gray, Faiza Kracheni, Felipe Garza**

**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**

Natalie Earhart of Almost Real Things spoke about their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Touch the Art” show and expressed questions about the 2024 Nexus Grant timeline and communication

Hector Ordaz from Proyecto Teatro spoke about their questions to updates to the Spanish language application process for the Cultural Funding Programs, and expressed their desire to be a part of the language access review process of the Cultural Funding Programs

Raquel Rivera from SUDEM spoke about their desire to be a part of the language access review process of the Cultural Funding Programs

Maria Luisa Guitierrez from Proyecto Teatro spoke about their questions to updates to the Spanish language application process for the Cultural Funding Programs.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Arts Commission Regular Meeting on December 11, 2023.  
**The minutes from the meeting of December 11, 2023 were approved on Commissioner Houston motion, Commissioner Zisman second on a 6-0 vote with Commissioners Gray, Kracheni, Garza, Mok, and Medicharla absent**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Discussion of Chair's Report by Chair Zisman  
**An update was provided by Chair Zisman.**
3. Discussion of the Art in Public Places Liaison Report by Commissioner Maldonado  
**A report was provided by Commissioner Maldonado.**
4. Discussion of the Austin Economic Development Corporation/Cultural Trust Advisory Committee by Austin Economic Development Corporation Board Member Carl Settles  
**A report was provided by Board Member Carl Settles**
5. Discussion of the Downtown Commission by Commissioner Mok  
**A report was provided by Commissioner Mok.**

### **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

6. 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**
7. Staff update on the Cultural Arts Funding Programs by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor  
**The presentation was made by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor**

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

8. Approve the Modified Final Design for the Comal Pocket Park AIPP Project  
**A motion to approve the Modified Final Design for the Comal Pocket Park AIPP Project on Commissioner Zisman motion, Commissioner Csillagi's second on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Gray, Kracheni, Garza, and Houston absent.**

### **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

9. Final Update and Working Group Sunset from Cultural Funding Appeals Working Group with Commissioners Zisman, Schmalbach, Garza, and Houston (chair)  
**The working group was sunsetted**
10. Update from Emergency Funding and Proactive Strategies for Future Funding Working Group with Commissioners Schmalbach and Zisman (chair)  
**Update was given by Commissioner Zisman**
11. 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**
12. Update from Community Engagement Working Group with Commissioners Zisman, Houston, Csillagi, and Kracheni (chair)  
**Update was given by Commissioner Zisman**

#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Various items were discussed**

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Schmalbach adjourned the meeting at 8:03 P.M. without objection.**

The minutes were approved at the February 26, 2024 meeting on Commissioner Houston's motion, Commissioner Zisman's second on a 8-0 vote with Commissioner Gray abstaining, and Commissioners Csillagi and Maldonado absent.