



**REGULAR MEETING of the ARTS COMMISSION**  
**March 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM**  
**Austin City Hall, Council Chambers, Room 1001.**  
**301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701**

**Some members of the ARTS COMMISSION may be participating by videoconference. The meeting may be viewed online at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watch-atxn-live>**

Public comment will be allowed in-person or remotely via telephone. Speakers may only register to speak on an item once either in-person or remotely and will be allowed up to three minutes to provide their comments. Registration no later than Noon the day before the meeting is required for remote participation by telephone. To register to speak remotely, call or email Jesús Varela at [jesus.varela@austintexas.gov](mailto:jesus.varela@austintexas.gov) or at 512-974-2444.

**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**

The first 10 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Arts Commission Regular Meeting on February 26, 2023.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Discussion of Chair's Report on Staying Engaged by Chair Zisman
3. Report of the Art in Public Places Liaison concerning actions taking during the February 26, 2024 meeting of the Art in Public Places Panel by Commissioner Maldonado
4. Discussion of actions taken at the February 28, 2024 meeting of Austin Economic Development Corporation/Cultural Trust Advisory Committee's last meeting by Board Chair Carl Settles

5. Update on actions taken at the February 21, 2024 Downtown Commission meeting by Commissioner Mok
6. Presentation by Brie Franco from the Intergovernmental Relations Office on the 2023 Texas Legislative Session
7. Presentation by Matthew Hinsley on the history of Austin Classical Guitar
8. Presentation by Allison Orr of Forklift Danceworks on attending the first-ever White House Convening on Arts and Culture.
9. Presentation by David Fuentes of Economic Growth Business Incubator (EGBI) on their services and programing.
10. Presentation by Amanda Johnston, Founder and Executive Director of Torch Literary Arts on the impact the Thrive Grant has made on Torch Literary Arts and the growing community of writers they serve.

### **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

11. Staff update on the Community Navigator program by Robert Lucio, Contract Management Specialist II
12. Staff update on Land Use Updates by Donald Jackson, Business Process Consultant
13. Staff briefing regarding an update on the Hotel Occupancy Tax by Laura Odegaard, Cultural Investment Program Manager
14. Staff update on the Cultural Arts Funding Programs by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

15. Sign the letter of support for Poet Laureate program
16. Discussion and approval on the FY 24-25 budget recommendations

### **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

17. Update from joint Arts/Music Commission Working Group on Urban Core Issues with Commissioners Gray, Maldonado, and Schmalbach (chair).
18. Update from Community Engagement Working Group with Commissioners Zisman, Houston, Csillagi, and Kracheni (chair)

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Jesús Varela at the Economic Development Department, at 512-974-2444, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Arts Commission, please contact Jesús Varela at 512-974-2444.