Cultural Arts Funding Update

Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor
Cultural Arts Division
Economic Development Department
April 15, 2024

Economic Development
CITY OF AUSTIN

Status Reports

Current Contracts, Payment Updates, and Pending Program Launches

Grant Funded Activities for April and May

Operationalizing Community Feedback

Contracts and Payments Update

	Elevate	Nexus	Thrive Year 1	Thrive Year 2	Arts Ed Relief Grant
Total Contracts	**200**	**51**	**36**	**See year 1**	**19**
Signed & Processed Contracts	199 (99%)	51 (100%)	36 (100%)	See year 1	19 (100%)
Test payments issued & verified	199 (99%)	50 (98%)	36 (100%)	See year 1	19 (100%)
Payment 1 Issued	**199** (99%)	**50** (98%)	**36** (100%)	**30** (83%)	**18** (95%)
Payment 2 Issued	**163** (81%)	**16** (31%)	**36** (100%)	- (0%)	- (0%)
Payment 3 Issued	(4%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total Dist. to date	**$5,217,250** (83%)	**$232,500** (91%)	**$3,901,500** (100%)	**$3,028,500** (78%)	**$405,000** (85%)
Total Allocation	$6,250,000	$255,000	$3,901,500	$3,901,500	$475,000

Nexus Launch

Tuesday, April 16

- Application opens at 10am
- Submittable new application platform – Supported by The Long Center

Tuesday, May 14

- Application closes at 7pm
- Staff application support available 10am-6pm through Open Office Hours

Friday, May 31

- Awards announced
- Applications reviewed by staff from across the City of Austin

June 1-Sept 30, 2024

- Activities must occur within the grant period
- Shorter than usual grant period to accommodate transition to new application platform

October 31, 2024

- The latest a Final Report is due
- Final Reports are due 30 days after the final activity has concluded, rounded to the end of that month

Visit **austintexas.gov/Nexus** to learn more.

Nexus Application Assistance

Provider	Type of Support	Dates	Contact
Cultural Funding Staff	1:1 Application Support Location TBD	By appointment and May drop-in assistance days	Culturalarts@austintexas.gov
	Open Office Hours In person or on Zoom	Every Tuesday April 16 to May 7 from 10 AM-12 PM May 13 and 14 from 10 AM-6PM	
Almost Real Things (Cultural Funding Staff in attendance)	1:1 Application Support Application Workshops	By Appointment April 17, May 4, May 11, May 14	Almost Real Things 512-814-8318 Hello@almostrealthings.com
The Long Center	Technical Assistance with Submittable Platform		Cityofaustingrants@thelongcenter.org

Visit **austintexas.gov/Nexus** to learn more.

Future Program Launches

Live Music Fund

- Launches after Nexus application closes
- Date TBD

Elevate and Thrive

- Will Launch after Live Music Fund closes
- Date TBD
- Elevate: for activities occurring October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025
- Thrive: for activities occurring January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026

Nexus 2024 Fall/Winter

- Will launch after Elevate and Thrive closes
- Dates TBD
- Will be open for activities occurring October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Grantee Activities

April/May

Elevate Grantee April Events

Wonderful India Festival

- April 5 -27, weekly Th, Fri, Sat, 5-8pm
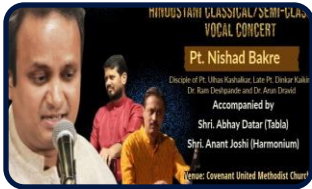- Artly World – 3806 Cherrywood Road (Dist 9)

Born with Teeth

- April 5 – 28, weekly Th, Fr, Sa, Su
- Austin Playhouse – 405 W 22 St, Bldg 4000 (Dist 9)

Log Cabin

- April 12-14 and April 18-20, 8-10pm
- Austin Rainbow Theatre – Trinity Street Theater (Dist 3)

Hindustani Classical/Semi-classical Vocal Concert By Pt Nishad Bakre

- April 13, 5pm-8pm
- Kala Darpan, Covenant United Methodist Church - 410 Duval Rd (Dist 6)

Anklets in the Boardroom

- April 20, 5-7pm
- Leela – an Indian Community Theatre - Austin PBS Silicon Labs Community Room – 6101 Highland Dr. Bldg 3000 (Dist 6)

Elevate Grantee April Events

ATX Theatre Presents Affordable Headshot Sessions

- April 20 -21, 12 – 6pm
- ATX Theatre – Sterling Stage Austin – 6134 E Hwy 290 (Dist 8

BRAVE Communities Connection – April Showers Bring Brave Flowers

- April 2, 2-4pm
- BRAVE Communities– DAWA Studios HQ 916 Springdale Rd, Bldg 4, Ste 109 (Dist 3)

24th Annual Dragon Boat Festival

- April 27, 10am-3pm
- Asian American Cultural Center – Nash Hernandez Sr Rd (Dist 10)

Austin Blues Festival

- April 27-28 – 12-10pm
- Clifford Antone Foundation – Waterloo Greenway – 1111 Red River St (Dist 9)

The Front Market

- April 27-28 – 11am-5pm
- Future Front – Distribution Hall 1500 E 4 St (Dist 3)
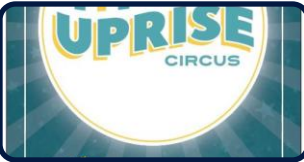
Elevate Grantee May Events

Touch the Art Experience
- April 28-May 19
- Almost Real Things – 820 Shelby Lane, #103 (Dist 3)

Bizet's Carmen
- May 2 -5, 7:30 pm
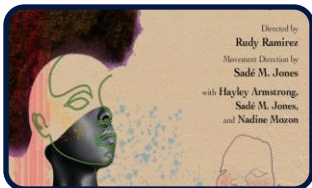- Austin Opera – The Long Center, 701 W Riverside Dr (Dist 9)

Circus under the Stars
- May 4, 7-10pm
- Uprise Circus – 11797 Rim Rock Trail (Dist ETJ)

Lulu Fest
- May 11 5:30-9:30pm
- Ritenuto Foundation – First Presbyterian Church of Austin, 8001 Mesa Dr (Dist 10)

The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body

- April 12 – May 4, weekly Th, Fr, Sa, Su
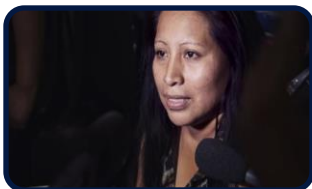- The Vortex – 2307 Manor Rd (Dist 1)

9th Annual Indie Meme Film Festival

- April 17 -21 and May 3-5, 6 – 10pm
- Indie Meme, AFS Cinema & Event Hall 6406 N IH 35 Frontage Rd, Ste 3100 (Dist 6)

Dance for Mother Earth

- April 21, 2-5pm
- Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery St #13 (Dist 3)

Cinenoche Presents Mujeres en la Lucha: Fly so Far

- April 24, 7pm-9pm
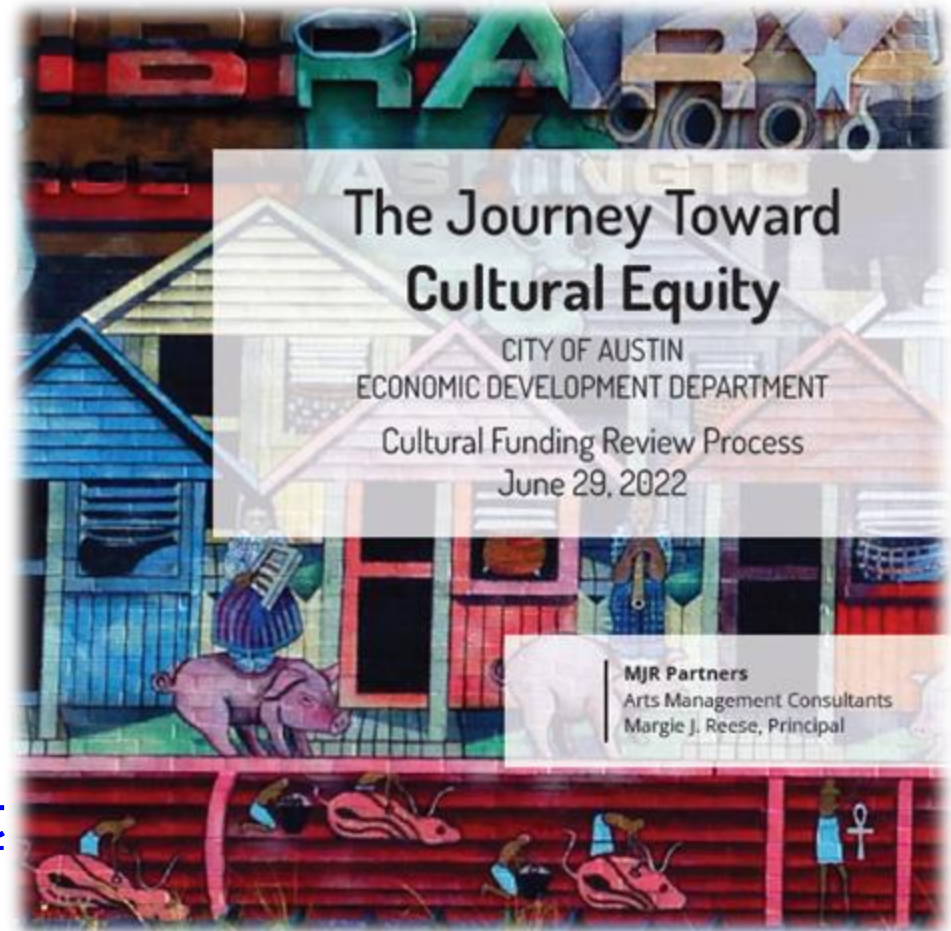- Cine Las Americas – Violet Crown Cinema, 434 W 2 St (Dist 9)

26th Annual Cine Las Americas International Film Festival

- May 15 – 19, Various times daily
- Cine Las Americas, Various Locations

Operationalizing Feedback

Resource Links

[MJR Partners Interim Report](#)

[MJR Partners Final Report](#)

[June 2022 Arts Commission Approval](#)

Origins of Thrive Grant

Why Thrive?

To Build capacity for Austin's current and next generation of arts and culture leaders

Intentionally strengthen culturally specific organizations

Develop enforceable accountability systems for organizations

Training   Learn   Knowledge   Support   Skills   Coaching   Development

Clarifying Eligibility (all programs)

Creative Businesses (for-profit groups) Eligibility

- Feedback was contradictory
- Individuals and Creative Businesses have always been eligible
- Annual Budget Expense capped
- Non-arts organizations no longer eligible

Why are non-Austinites allowed to apply for funding?

- Austin cost of living is expensive
- Limited to 5-county region (MSA)
- Over half of their activities must take place in Austin/ETJ
- All funded activities must take place in Austin/ETJ

Award Amount Changes (Proposed to Present)

Program		Proposed 2022	Pilot Year 2023	New Proposed 2024
Elevate Nonprofit Grants	# Grants	65	125	125
	Award Amounts	$7.5k - $50k	$30k - $75k	$40k-$80k
Elevate Individual/Creative Business Grants	# Grants	35	75	100
	Award Amounts	$7.5k - $10k	$10k-$25k	$15k-$30k
Thrive Grants	# Grants	35	36	35
	Award Amounts	$70k - $120k	$85k - $150k	$85k-$150k
Nexus Grants	# Grants	50	50	50
	Award Amounts	$5k	No Change	No Change

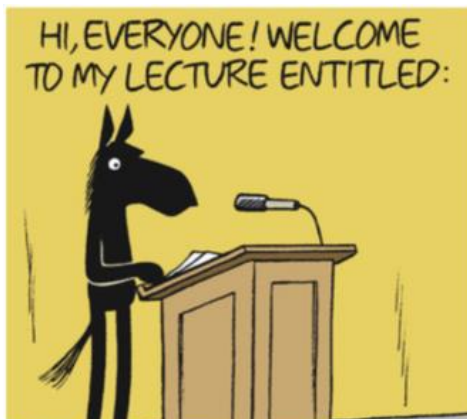# Guideline Changes (from Proposed to Present)

Thrive eligibility revised

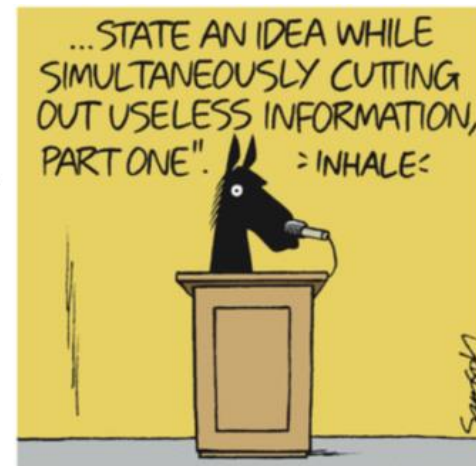- Removed the "$100k or less average COA award over time" eligibility requirement

Revised to be clearer and more concise

Reduced the number of questions and required uploads

Simplified Budget Form

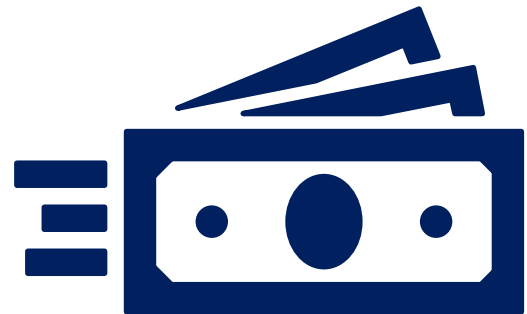https://www.gocomics.com/darksideofthehorse/2023/01/04

Streamlining Awards (from Core to Pilots)

Insurance waived in Nexus

Increased the speed of contracting and payments

- *The Long Center as Third-Party Administrator*

Panel Process (From Core to Pilot to Present)

Added Equity training for staff and panel members

Higher pay for reviewers (training, reviewing/scoring, panels)

Added Community Member participation (funds are for community)

All multidisciplinary panels (ensuring robust panel participation)

No interaction from the public (national grantmaking best practices)

Virtual panel meetings (increased equity and flexibility)

Added Spanish interpreters

No Reader Stage

Added mid-range scoring options

Language Access (From Core to Pilot)

More language access but a work in progress

   Applications accepted in non-English languages

   Community Navigator assistance in Spanish

   Interpreters available upon request

   Videos are captioned

Award Determination (from Core to Pilot)

Option to accept a smaller award

No matching requirement

No minimum score requirement

Awards no longer tied to budget size

Narrow and deep funding

- *Awards are more meaningful*

- *Community wanted competitive process*

Appeals Process (from Core to Pilot)

Written panel comments

Staff go over application scores and concerns

Streamlined Appeals Process

Added Arts Commission Appeals Working Group

Added virtual Appeals Form

Application (from Pilot to Present)

Thrive and Elevate for Nonprofits

- **Same application process**
- **Launch at the same time**

Moving from Portal to Submittable

Application Assistance (from Core to Present)

Increased technical assistance and training

Added Community Navigators/Amplifiers

More 1:1 support provided

     Weekly and application due date Open Office Hours

     No Friday application due dates

     Deadline moving from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

     Staff availability 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM generally

Questions?