



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission for Women

Recommendation Number: 20241204-004: Support of Sunday Sessions ATX

WHEREAS, Sunday Sessions ATX is a community-focused organization dedicated to fostering inclusivity, well-being, and engagement through free, open-to-the-public music events hosted in outdoor greenspaces that reflect the City of Austin's cultural identity and enhance its reputation as the "Live Music Capital of the World"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin recognizes the significant social and economic benefits of supporting free community events, which attract visitors, support local businesses, and provide meaningful opportunities for community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, in Resolution No. 20240215-023, acknowledged the challenges faced by event organizers due to rising costs, emphasizing the need for support to sustain free, accessible community events like "Blues on the Green," which contribute to Austin's cultural vibrancy; and directed the City Manager to solicit input from the Arts, Music, and Quality of Life commissions in developing recommendations to support and sustain these events by utilizing partnerships across all areas of expertise involved in the live music and arts event space, with the goal of expanding opportunities for the City to co-sponsor community events that are centered around locality, diversity, and inclusivity; and further established an ordinance for associated fee waivers, co-sponsorships, or related budget authorizations needed to effectuate these goals; and

WHEREAS, Sunday Sessions ATX is an ongoing, monthly event that aligns with the goals outlined in Resolution No. 20240215-023 by providing free access to local music, arts, and wellness activities, while creating inclusive and diverse spaces for Austinites; and

WHEREAS, the ACE permitting fee presents a financial barrier for small, grassroots organizations like Sunday Sessions ATX, and waiving this fee on an ongoing basis would directly support the City's goal of fostering open, accessible, and culturally enriching events; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to preserving and promoting accessible community events that reflect Austin's diversity and vibrancy, including supporting organizations like Sunday Sessions ATX through fee waivers and other resources to ensure their long-term sustainability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOMMENDED, that the Commission for Women requests that the Austin City Council direct the City Manager's Office to waive the ACE permitting fees for Sunday Sessions ATX on a recurring, monthly basis in recognition of its valuable contributions to Austin's cultural and community life, as part of the City's broader efforts to support free, public, and inclusive events; and

BE IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED, that the Commission for Women supports exploring additional partnerships and resources, in collaboration with Sunday Sessions ATX and similar community organizations, to ensure continued access to free, open-to-the-public events that promote cultural inclusivity and community engagement in Austin.

Date of Approval: December 4, 2024

Record of the vote:

Motioned by: Commissioner Austen

Seconded by: Commissioner Scheihing

For: Chair Tau, Commissioners Austen, Bissereth, Glasser, Harris, and Scheihing (6-0)

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Vice Chair Bullard, Commissioners Melendez, Rattan, Serrata, and Veloz Salas.

Attest: *Christí Vítela*

(Commission for Women Staff Liaison)