



**REGULAR MEETING of the ARTS COMMISSION
July 15, 2024, at 6:00 PM
Austin City Hall, Council Chambers, Room 1001.
301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701**

The ARTS COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on 15, July 2024 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 6:01 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Celina Zisman, Heidi Schmalbach, Felipe Garza, Michael Vernusky

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Gina Houston, Monica Maldonado, Nagavalli Medicharla, Keyheira Keys, Faiza Kracheni

Board Members Absent: Amy Mok, Acia Gray,

CURRENT COMMISSIONERS:

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

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Beth Burns from The Hidden Room spoke on the achievements that were made possible through City of Austin Cultural Funding support, and the challenges they are facing since not receiving an award since 2021.

Heather Barfield spoke on feedback from the community

Kayla Moores and Margaret from Brave Communities wanted to thank the City of Austin for the cultural funding that supported their Brave Young Leaders program

Jessie Lucas from Brave communities spoke about their positive experience in the Brave Young Leaders program and was thankful to the Cultural Arts Division for the arts funding

Laura Esparza from Art Alliance Austin spoke about their mission and launch party at The Canopy

Laura Esparza spoke to show her support of the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

Anjanette Gautier from Proyecto Teatro spoke on the Spanish language support and to ask for an extension

Luis Ordaz from Proyecto Teatro spoke to ask the Arts Commission to advocate for the Spanish speaking community

Yenai Ave is a small business owner who spoke to address their difficulties applying for the Elevate grant as a creative business and asked that the programs be more visible

Hector Ordaz from Proyecto Teatro spoke about the languages for Spanish language speakers

Maria Luisa from Proyecto Teatro spoke on her desire to have more in-depth communication with the Arts Commission. They were also disappointed that their City contract had to be in English. They also advocated for the extension of the Elevate/Thrive grants.

Raquel Rivera from Proyecto Teatro spoke on the difficulty applying for the cultural funding grants and advocated for more outreach to their communities.

Hector spoke about his experience with Proyecto Teatro and expressed his frustration with Spanish language outreach for the cultural funding grants.

Mauricio Callejas from Centroamericano Fest spoke on his frustration with the Spanish language outreach and translation for the cultural funding grants. He also expressed his concern with the size of the grants offered because the cost of productions are increasing.

Bonnie Cullum from The Vortex spoke on the rising costs of running a theater and expressed their concern that the Thrive grant is not enough to cover their operating costs and advocated for more access

Olivia Rodriguez from Proyecto Teatro spoke about their frustrations with access to cultural arts funding

Eboni L.Calbow Ceasar spoke to show their support for Proyecto Teatro to advocate for the extension of the Elevate/Thrive grants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Arts Commission Regular Meeting on June 17, 2024.
The minutes from the meeting of June 17, 2024 were approved on Commissioner Schmalbach's motion, Commissioner Kracheni's second on a 7-0 vote with Commissioner's Gray and Mok absent and Garza and Keys abstaining
2. Approve the minutes of the Arts Commission Special Called Meeting on June 25, 2024.
The minutes from the meeting of June 25, 2024 were approved on Commissioner Kracheni's motion, Commissioner Houston's second on a 7-0 vote with Commissioner's Gray and Mok absent and Garza and Keys abstaining

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Discussion of Chair's Report on Arts Commission Retreat Recap by Chair Zisman
An update was given by Chair Zisman

4. Report of the Art in Public Places Liaison concerning actions taking during the July 1, 2024 meeting of the Art in Public Places Panel by Commissioner Maldonado
An update was given by Commissioner Maldonado
5. Update on actions taken at the May 15, 2024 Downtown Commission meeting by Commissioner Mok
No update given
6. Presentation by Shea Little from Big Medium on the future of the Austin Studio Tour
The presentation was made by Shea Little
7. Presentation by Raasin McIntosh, Vice President, Active Urbanism and Vanessa Olson, Vice President, Communication + Marketing on the Downtown Austin Alliance's DASA (Downtown Austin's Space Activation) program.
The presentation was made by Vanessa Olson

STAFF BRIEFINGS

8. Staff briefing regarding an update on the Hotel Occupancy Tax by Laura Odegaard, Cultural Investment Program Manager
The presentation was made by Laura Odegaard, Acting Cultural Arts Division Manager
9. 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

10. Discussion and Possible Action on a recommendation to Austin City Council on the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan with presentation by Kim McKnight, Program Manager, Historic Preservation & Tourism Program, Austin Parks and Recreation; Katie Robinson Edwards and Amanda Valbracht, UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum

Reynaldo spoke to express their support for the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

Meredith Wilson spoke to express their support for the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

Richard Weiss spoke to express their support for the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

Francis Thimpson spoke to express their support for the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

Jenny Branch spoke to express their support for the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan

The presentation was made by Katie Robinson Edwards and Amanda Valbracht

A motion to approve the UMLAUF Historic Preservation, Expansion, and Unification Plan on Commissioner's Schmalbach motion, Commissioner Garza second on a 9-0 vote with Commissioner's Gray and Mok absent

11. Discussion and Possible Action to approve the Prospectus for the Austin Convention Center Expansion AIPP Project with presentation by Riley Triggs, Project Management Supervisor with Capital Delivery Services
A motion to approve the Prospectus for the Austin Convention Center Expansion AIPP Project on Commissioner's Vernusky motion, Commissioner Maldonado second on a 9-0 vote with Commissioner's Gray and Mok absent
12. Action: Approve the Request for Qualifications for the Elisabet Ney Museum Grounds AIPP Project
13. Action: Approve the Request for Qualifications for the Substandard Streets – Johnny Morris Road, and Ross Road AIPP Projects
14. Action: Approve the Request for Qualifications for the Red Bud Isle AIPP Project
15. Action: Approve the Request for Qualifications for Walter E. Long & John Trevino AIPP Project
16. Action: Approve the Request for Qualifications for Armadillo Water Tank Mural AIPP Project
A motion to approve items 12 – 16 on consent on Commissioner Schmalbach's motion, Commissioner Houston's second on a 9-0 vote with Commissioner's Gray and Mok absent
17. Discussion and possible action to solidify consented terms of Commissioner Agreements as discussed at the 6/25 Arts Commission Retreat
A motion to move Item 17 to the August 19th meeting on Commissioner Zisman's motion, Commissioner Schmalbach's second on a 9-0 vote with Commissioner's Gray and Mok absent

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

18. 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
19. Update from Community Engagement Working Group with Commissioners Zisman, Houston, and Kracheni (chair)
Update was given by Commissioner Kracheni
20. Discussion on increasing Cultural Arts funding award amounts vs. increasing number of Cultural Arts awards
A motion to move Item 20 to the August 19th meeting on Commissioner Schmalbach's motion, Commissioner Garza's second on a 9-0 vote with Commissioner's Gray and

Mok absent

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Various items were discussed

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion around language access

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zisman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the August 19, 2024 meeting on Commissioner Kracheni's motion, Commissioner Vernusky's second on a 6-0 vote with Commissioner's Schmalbach, Mok, Maldonado, and Keys absent and Gray abstaining