

CITY OF AUSTIN'S CULTURAL ARTS|FUNDING

BRIEFING BY COMMUNITY ARTISTS ON THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE CITY'S FUDING PROGRAMS

ADVISORY BOARD SPONSORS: Navarro, Zamarripa-Saenz

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Dr. Róen Salinas | Aztlan Dance Company

Luis Ordaz Gutiérrez | ProyectoTEATRO

Hector Ordaz Gutiérrez | ProyectoTEATRO

Raquel Rivera | SUREM & Roy Lozano's Ballet Folklórico

BRIEF HISTORY

40+ YEARS OF CULTURAL ARTS FUNDING

- HOT Tax funding source
- Long standing cultural contractors include all LARP artists to date
- Institutionalized and systemic underfunding of non-white artists since programs were rolled out in the late 70s / early 80s. Issues are rooted in inequitable funding eligibility qualifications, budget matrices that favor white socioeconomic levels, and language accessibility barriers for non-english speaking artists.

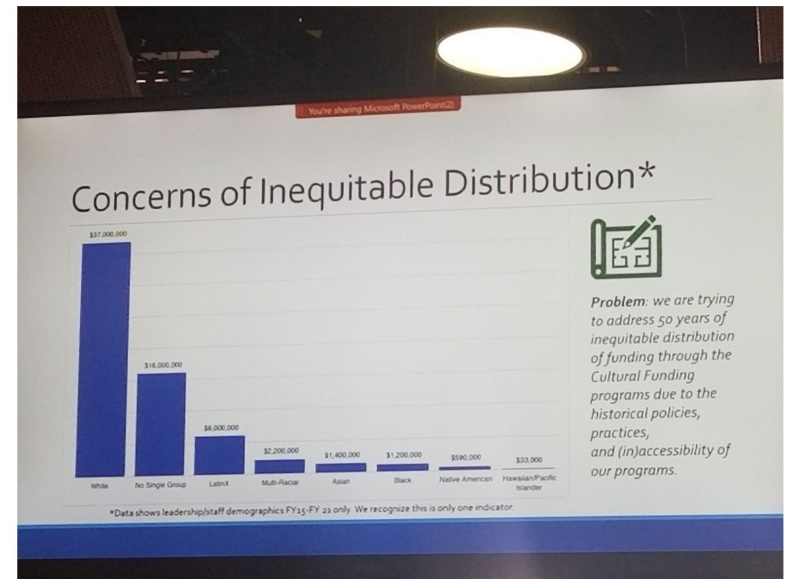
2020: FUNDING DISTRIBUTION FOR LATINO ARTS PUBLISHED

40+ YEARS INEQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION

All City of Austin cultural arts funding programs are frozen per 3rd party consultant recommendation. Research recommends:

- **More program outreach and accessibility** for BIPOC communities.
- **Equal representation** in the distribution of the cultural art funding
- **Priority to vulnerable communities** that had been historically left out
- **Ability to apply in other languages** other than english

2015-2021: Latino community only receives 9% of entire city funding.



From 2015 - 2021: Out of 65 million dollars were allocated to the arts ecosystem in Austin, Hispanic/Latino/Latinx artists got 6 million.

White: 37 Million (**57%**)
No Single Group: 16 Million
Latinx: 6 Million (**9%**)
Multi-Racial: 2.2 Million

Asian: 1.4 Million (**1%**)
Black: 1.2 Million (**1%**)
Native American: 590,000 Thousand (**.5%**)
Hawaiian-Pacific Islander: 33,000 Thousand

PAUSE, REDESIGNING, AND RESET

2020 AND BEYOND

New Funding levels are proposed as:

- **Thrive** for large organizations
- **Elevate** for medium organizations
- **Nexus** for small organizations or emerging artists

With new funding matrices, less challenging applications, fewer eligibility requirements and...

The opportunity to apply in 7 languages other than english!

Latino artist can finally apply in Spanish!

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR SPANISH-SPEAKERS

THE START OF A SERIES OF LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Inaugural 2023 reset launch of new programs:

- **Negligent Translation errors;** City moves to extend deadline to allow for Spanish speakers to receive application support. No contracts in spanish available.

2024 2nd Cycle of New Funding programs:

- **Negligent Translation errors,** No outreach to Latino community, poor attempts at supporting spanish speakers. Hispanic Quality of Life makes recommendation →

2025 3rd Cycle of New Funding programs:

- **Negligent Translation errors,** confusing eligibility process, lack of spanish language replies, still no contracts in spanish.

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Committee

Recommendation Number: (2024)423-005
Resolution of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission Budget for Increase Funding for Community Navigators in the Economic Development Department's Arts Funding Programs.

Background:
Every year The Economic Development Department (EDD) creates grant opportunities for local artists. Those opportunities are: Nexus, Live Music Fund, Elevate, Thrive and Creative Spaces Assistance Program.

The current grant that is open is Nexus which provides up to \$5,000 to new and emerging local small organizations, individual artists, and small arts businesses to produce creative public projects.

EDD has eleven navigators that assist with translation, support and anything that's needed for communities interested in applying to successfully submit their grant applications.

Timeline:

- NEXUS applications opened on **Tuesday, April 16th, 2024**
- Applications close on **May 14th, 2024 (3 weeks from now)**
- **28-day application window**

1. There are Spanish speaking groups that have been looking forward to applying and to date, **only one out of the eleven** Community Navigators (Almost Real Things) in the list above has publicly marketed any assistance or resources in Spanish relating to NEXUS or any other cultural arts funding program from the city.

2. **None of the eleven** community navigators have a documented history of working with Spanish-language / immigrant artists or cultural organizations.

3. **There are only two upcoming info sessions that are in Spanish:**

- ART General Info Session in Spanish** **May 4th, 2024 @ 2:30-4PM**
a. A general info session for anyone interested in the NEXUS program hosted by community navigator Almost Real Things
- NOTE:** This workshop is being offered so late in the process, that artists interested in applying only have 10 days to **finalize** their applications.

Translation Assistance **April 29th & May 6th @ 10am**

Spanish-language interpreters available on site, on a first come, first serve basis. Last year, the one interpreter did not show up.

With informing of NEXUS was only sent out in English, recent registrations are still in English.

Outreach and promotion of this funding opportunity to artist communities.

Assessments offered in Spanish **BEFORE** the launch of applying artists ample time to prepare, gather

Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Application deadline to allow ample opportunity for

Contracts with community navigators in that they meet

Have a BIPOC community organization (or a team of diverse funding programs in Spanish, offer substantial salaries and culturally relevant for Austin's diversity. Contract should match the amount of other R/ teams should, in comparison the current list of community navigators:

1. Have a mission directly serving Latino / Latinx / Spanish-speaking artists.

2. Have a documented history of deep engagement with the following communities in Austin:

- Spanish-language artists collectives
- Latinx cultural workers
- Latinx artists
- From folkloristas
- Rich and market the City's cultural funding opportunities
- Work of Latino/Latinx artists & spanish-language cultural

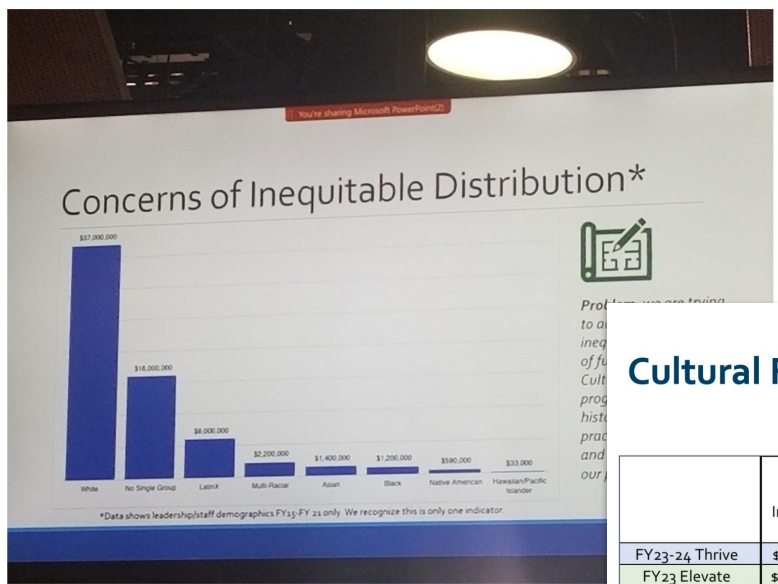
Team that can provide adequate in-person program and

Having personnel that can guide and assist Latino/Latinx cultural workers throughout the entire application process, in info sessions,

Go pro-active and robust outreach campaigns that connect to Latino/Latinx artists. Beyond one social media post like in by the **one** community navigator.

silvan, Daniela Silva, Amanda AM6 (Chair), Ivanna Neri, Commissioner Dulce Castaneda, Kevin Jackson, Jr.,

is Maldonado and Jesus Perales



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Cultural Funding – Pilot Program Investment Outcomes

	Total Investment	Majority Diverse %	Majority Diverse Investment	Equally Led %	Equally Led Investment	Majority White or Prefer not to Answer %	Majority White or Prefer not to answer Investment
FY23-24 Thrive	\$7,870,000	97%	\$7,633,900	3%	\$236,100	0%	\$0
FY23 Elevate	\$6,000,000	60%	\$3,600,000	10%	\$600,000	31%	\$1,860,000
FY23 Nexus	\$260,000	74%	\$192,400.00	8%	\$20,800.00	17%	\$44,200.00
FY24 Elevate	\$9,265,000	67%	\$6,207,550.00	4%	\$370,600.00	29%	\$2,686,850.00
FY24 Nexus	\$510,000	78%	\$397,800.00	1%	\$5,100.00	21%	\$107,100.00
FY25-26 Thrive	\$7,700,000	89%	\$6,853,000.00	0%	\$0.00	11%	\$847,000.00
Total	\$31,605,000	79%	\$24,884,650	4%	\$1,232,600	18%	\$5,545,150

Note: 2015-2021 Investment was 18% Majority Diverse; 25% Equally Led; 57% Majority White/Prefer not to answer.

COMMUNITY ASK

MOVING FORWARD

1. Appropriate outreach to Latino community regarding funding programs
2. Human translations of all documents in the process
3. Oversight of spanish-language process in its entirety
4. Contracts in Spanish
5. Metrics and data regarding distribution amounts of cultural funding by ethnicity.