



RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: 20260309-011: Housing Assistance Grants for LGBTQIA+ and Queer Artists

WHEREAS, Austin’s artists and creative workers are central to the City’s cultural identity, economic vitality, and national reputation as a center for live performance and creative expression; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ and queer artists, including drag performers and nightlife creatives, contribute significantly to Austin’s arts and entertainment ecosystem while often facing heightened economic precarity, housing instability, and displacement pressures; and

WHEREAS, rising housing costs continue to disproportionately impact artists and cultural workers, threatening the sustainability of Austin’s creative communities and cultural districts; and

WHEREAS, housing instability among artists may result in the loss of culturally significant venues, performances, and creative spaces that contribute to neighborhood vitality, tourism, and small business activity; and

WHEREAS, Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment (AACME), in coordination with housing and community development departments, provides existing infrastructure for arts support and community stabilization efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LGBTQIA+ Quality of Life Commission recommends that the Austin City Council direct the City Manager to increase funding for existing housing stabilization and assistance programs by \$200,000, with coordination through AACME and relevant housing departments to ensure effective outreach to artists and creative workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission recommends that, within the administration of expanded housing stabilization resources, outreach and prioritization strategies be developed to address the documented housing instability faced by LGBTQIA+ artists and creative workers, consistent with equity-focused implementation practices and existing City guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City coordinate with AACME and community partners to ensure accessible communication, culturally competent outreach, and clear application pathways for artists and creative workers who may not traditionally access housing assistance programs.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Commission requests reporting on utilization rates, artist participation, and displacement prevention outcomes associated with the expanded funding allocation to inform future cultural and housing policy decisions.

Date of Approval: March 9, 2026

Motioned By: Commissioner Brown

Seconded By: Commissioner Pituk

Vote: 9-0

For: Chair Coyne, Vice Chair McLeod, Secretary Benson, Commissioners Brown, Davis, Fierro-Pérez, Knutson, Pituk, Rivas

Against: None

Abstain: None

Off the dais: None

Absent: Commissioners Bandit, Johnson, Krueger, Neal

Attest: *Ryan Sperling*

(Ryan Sperling, Staff Liaison)