REGULAR MEETING of the ARTS COMMISSION
June 15, 2026, 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 June 15, 2026 at Austin City Hall, Council Chambers, Room 1001. 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Chair Houston called the ARTS COMMISSION Meeting to order at 6:07 PM

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Houston, Hussaini, Pownall, Anderson, Medicharla, Banskota
Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Schmalbach
Board Members Absent: Keys, Maldonado, Garza, Kracheni

CURRENT COMMISSIONERS:
Gina Houston - Chair, Muna Hussaini - Vice Chair, Keyheira Keys, Monica Maldonado, Felipe Garza, Heidi Schmalbach, Kirtana Banskota, Bailey Pownall, Faiza Kracheni, Sharron B Anderson, Nagavalli Medicharla

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Amanda Johnston of Torch Literary Arts spoke on the opening of their Torch Center and invited the Arts Commission to attend their opening event.
- Roshan Manjunath of Artly World spoke on the organization's mission and services offered

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Arts Commission Regular Meeting on May 18, 2026.

The minutes from the meeting of May 18, 2026 were approved on Commissioner Anderson's motion, Commissioner Hussiani second on a 6-0 with Commissioners Keys, Maldonado, Garza, Banskota, and Kracheni absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Presentation by Dr. Claudia Zapata on the Artist in Residence Program offered by ACME and Transportation and Public Works (TPW) titled "Memorias Project 2026: An Immersive Art Experience Based on Austin's Mexican American Communities."
   The presentation was given by Dr. Claudia Zapata

3. Update on actions taken at the June 1st Art in Public Places Panel by Commissioner Schmalbach.
   The update was given by Commissioner Schmalbach

4. Update on actions taken at the May 20th Downtown Commission meeting by Commissioner Houston.
   The update was given by Commissioner Houston

5. Explore a Special Called joint meeting with the Music Commission.
   No Action Taken

6. Discussion on organizations possibly receiving duplicate ACME awards.
   Celia Hughes from Arts Park Texas spoke on their experience as a Fiscal Sponsor and the clear delineation between sponsored projects vs programs of their organization. They are concerned that grant guidelines no longer require fiscal sponsorship and now allow individuals to apply.

   John Riedie from Austin Creative Alliance spoke on their history as a fiscal sponsor. They wanted to express that they are concerned that Elevate grants were awarded under fiscal sponsored relationships that may not meet the legal and financial standards in the guidelines.

   Bonnie Cullum from The Vortex spoke on their experience fiscally sponsoring over 100 sponsored projects. They wanted to stress the importance of the assistance that is offered to sponsored projects.

   Commissioner Anderson spoke on a couple of letters she received from anonymous community members

7. Discussion on stipends amounts at City owned galleries.
   The update was given by Commissioner Houston

STAFF BRIEFINGS

8. Staff briefing regarding an update on the Hotel Occupancy Tax by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor.
   An update was given by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor.

9. Staff briefing regarding update on the Cultural Arts Funding Programs by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor.
   An update was given by Jesús Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor.

10. Staff briefing regarding an update on the ACME Funding Programs by Laura Odegaard, Acting Division Manager, ACME.
    An update was given by Laura Odegaard, Acting Division Manager, ACME.

11. Staff briefing regarding an update on Art in Public Places by Jaime Castillo, Art in Public Places Manager.
    An update was given by Jaime Castillo, Art in Public Places Manager.

    A motion to move 15-17 after item 12 was approved on Commissioner Houston's motion, Commissioner Anderson's second on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Keys, Maldonado, Garza, and Kracheni absent

12. Staff briefing regarding an update on ACME Museums and Cultural Facilities by Marjorie Flanagan, Division Manager and Michelle Rojas, Acting Division Manager.
    An update was given by Michelle Rojas, Acting Division Manager.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

13. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to explore a possible collaboration with Coalition for Austin's Arts & Spanish-Language Theatre for the expansion of the Latino Artist Access Program.
    A presentation was given by Ivan Davila

    A motion to approve a recommendation to explore a possible collaboration with Coalition for Austin's Arts & Spanish-Language Theatre for the expansion of the Latino Artist Access Program was approved on Commissioner Banskota's motion, Commissioner Medicharla's second on a 6-0 vote with Commissioners Keys, Maldonado, Garza, Schmalbach, and Kracheni absent

14. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to council on Circuit of the Americas agreement with RIDA Hotel, LLC.
    A motion to approve a recommendation to council on Circuit of the Americas agreement with RIDA Hotel, LLC. was approved on Commissioner Anderson's motion, Commissioner Banskota's second on a 6-0 vote with Commissioners Keys, Maldonado, Garza, Schmalbach, and Kracheni absent

15. Approve a recommendation for the AFD 53 / ATCEMS 42 Goodnight Ranch Art in Public Places Project Final Design.

16. Approve a recommendation for the Austin Convention Center Redevelopment (Phase 1) Art in Public Places Project Final Design.
    A motion to approve Items 15 & 16 on consent was approved on Commissioner Houston's motion, Commissioner Schmalbach's second on a 7-0 Vote with Commissioners Keys, Maldonado, Garza, and Kracheni absent

17. Discussion and possible action to establish a Deaccession Jury to review Art in Public Places artwork *Crosswalk on the Lake*. Presentation by Jaime Castillo, Art in Public Places Manager.
    An update was given by Jaime Castillo, Art in Public Places Manager.

    A motion to establish a Deaccession Jury to review Art in Public Places artwork Crosswalk on the Lake was approved on Commissioner Baskota's motion, Commissioner Houston's second on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Keys, Maldonado, Garza, and Kracheni absent

18. Discussion and possible action to approve the Annual Review and Report to Council
    An update was given by Commissioner Houston

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

19. Update from joint Arts/Music Commission Working Group on Urban Core Issues with Commissioners Schmalbach (Chair).
    The update was given by Commissioner Hussani.

20. Update from Arts Commission Bylaws Working Group with Commissioners Houston, Pownall, Keys, and Anderson (Chair).
    The update was given by Commissioner Anderson.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation by Austin Creative Alliance
- Discussion and possible action to plan an Arts Commission Retreat
- An explanation on how MoHA's Fiscally Sponsored projects weren't considered programs of MoHA.
- Staff serving on boards of awarded organizations
- Presentation on Fiscal Sponsorship
- Presentation on ACME Strategic Plan
- Staff presentation on City Owned Gallery spaces and exhibition stipends (August)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Houston adjourned the meeting at 9:26 P.M. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the July 20 2026 meeting on Commissioner Schmalbach's motion, Commissioner Houston's second on a 7-0 vote with Commissioner Maldonado abstaining and Hussaini. Keys absent