

## **2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION**

### ***Response to Request for Information***

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**DEPARTMENT:** Economic Development

**REQUEST NO.:** 85

**REQUESTED BY:** Gallo

**DATE REQUESTED:** 7/19/16

**DATE POSTED:** 7/25/16

**REQUEST:** What is the criteria used to fund a contract or project for the Cultural Arts Fund?

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**RESPONSE:** All contractors must be from Austin or the extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and all funded activities must produce or support non-profit arts events open to the general public that take place in Austin or the ETJ. Projects that are not in compliance with the Hotel Occupancy Tax requirements are not eligible for funding.

Each of the funding programs – Core, Community Initiatives, Cultural Expansion, and Cultural Heritage Festivals – have program specific evaluation criteria, approved by the Arts Commission. An outside peer review panel (or in the case of the Community Initiatives program, staff and the Arts Commission) reviews each application and scores each application against the evaluation criteria. Applications must score at least a 75 on a 100-point scale in order to receive funding. The scores are then applied to a funding matrix approved by the Arts Commission to determine the exact amount of funding for the award.

More detailed information on the Cultural Arts funding programs, including guidelines, can be found on our website:

- Core Cultural Funding Programs: <http://austintexas.gov/department/core-cultural-funding-programs>
- Community Initiatives Program: <http://austintexas.gov/department/auxiliary-cultural-funding-programs>
- Cultural Expansion Program: <http://austintexas.gov/department/cultural-expansion-program>
- Cultural Heritage Festivals Program: <http://austintexas.gov/department/cultural-heritage-festivals-program>