

AUSTIN
STUDIOS



TEXAS
FILM
HALL of
FAME

AUSTIN
FILM
SOCIETY

Date: March 10, 2008
To: Mayor and Council
From: Rebecca Campbell, Austin Film Society
Re: Austin Studios Project

On behalf of the Austin Film Society and Austin Studios, I am writing in support of the Utilities Contribution Agreement that is on your March 20, 2008, agenda.

Austin Studios opened in the year 2000 as a unique public/private partnership between the City of Austin and the Austin Film Society. Since that time, there has been a need to make modifications in order to convert the aircraft hangers at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport into functioning Film Production Facilities. Planning and budgeting for City of Austin bond funding to begin this effort was started in 2004. Forecast in 2008 dollars, the cost of the waterproofing, insulation, soundproofing, structural augmentation, lighting, fire sprinkler systems, life safety and other code upgrades, ADA compliance, digital infrastructure, and spot air conditioning for all of these City of Austin-owned buildings has been estimated at nearly \$9 million dollars.

City of Austin bond funds, approved by voters on November 7, 2006, are supplying \$5 million dollars of this total need. A \$5 million contribution agreement for facility improvements was approved by City Council in June 2007.

The additional City contribution of approximately \$1 million from Austin Energy and Austin Water Utility for air conditioning equipment and on-site fire line improvements would allow Austin Film Society to spend a greater portion of the \$5 million bond contribution on production-specific improvements (soundproofing, digital convergence, and security improvements), rather than on these air conditioning and fire-line improvements. It is these production-specific improvements that are expected to result in increased usage of Austin Studios by visiting production companies, thereby providing employment, economic, and other benefits to the Austin community.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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