



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Kevin Johns, Director
Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office

DATE: February 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Process Improvement to City-Sponsored Art Projects;
Resolution # 20100311-038

In response to the resolution passed on the March 11, 2010 directing the City Manager to identify barriers experienced by artists working on city-sponsored art projects, staff has prepared and presents the following recommendation.

On October 18, 2010, the Austin Arts Commission reviewed the findings of the permit survey of artists/artist teams who have completed projects in the Right of Way, as well as the anticipated permit cost of 50 current public art projects. The Arts Commission passed a motion to recommend that city-sponsored art projects be exempt from any applicable city permit fees. The Arts Commission acknowledged that the revenue to the city is minimal; however, these costs could have a significant impact on smaller budgets for fabrication and installation of artwork.

From the surveys, the two departments which issue permits required for city-sponsored art projects are Planning and Development Review Department (PDRD) and Department of Transportation (DOT). Over the next three years, it was determined that PDRD and DOT would receive approximately \$200 and \$6,800 respectively in permit fees from city-sponsored art projects. Each department stated that a fee waiver of city-sponsored art projects would not have a negative impact on their operating budget.

The Arts Commission's recommendation is supported by staff. If adopted, staff will initiate a fee waiver program for city-sponsored art projects by the City.

xc: Sue Edwards, ACM
Rosy Jalifi, Assistant Director, EGRSO
Megan Crigger, Acting Cultural Arts Program Manager, EGRSO