

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	10331	Agenda Number	10.
Meeting Date:	11/3/2011		Department:	Economic Growth and Redevelopment
Subject				
Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 7-2 of the City Code to allow the waiver of certain fees for projects commissioned by the City's Art in Public Places Program.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Fiscal Note				
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	<p>March 11, 2010: Council passed Resolution No. 20100311-038 directing the City Manager to identify barriers experienced by artists working on city-sponsored art projects with members of the arts community, including the Arts Commission, and make recommendations for process improvements for assisting artists participating in city-sponsored art projects, including but not limited to potential fee waivers.</p> <p>March 3, 2011: Council passed Resolution No. 20110303-035 directing the City Manager to develop and administer a fee waiver program for city-sponsored art projects.</p>			
For More Information:	Rosy Jalifi, Assistant Director, EGRSO, 974-7739; Megan Crigger, Acting Cultural Arts Division Manager, EGRSO, 974-9312			
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Austin Arts Commission.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

The Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) has invested more than \$5 million of City resources since 1985 to commission and site art in public places throughout the City. The City Council passed Resolution No. 20100311-038 in March, 2010, directing the City Manager to identify barriers experienced by artists working on city-sponsored art projects. In response, a written survey was sent to artists who had received public art commissions or who either temporarily or permanently placed works of art in the public right-of-way in the past seven years in order to help identify barriers of permitting for art and cultural activities. Results from the surveys were compiled and recommended courses of action were developed by City staff and the Arts Commission.

Based on the survey results, staff worked with the departments affected by a potential fee waiver to determine fiscal impacts. Since 2003, there have been a total of fifteen art projects that required a permit for review and installation of a work of art in the public right-of-way with a value of over \$7,000 and a projected cost of an additional \$7,000 in the next three years due to an increase in eligible streetscape projects. In general, permits or application fees for City of Austin commissioned public art projects are related to right-of-way permitting and are sometimes covered under the general construction permit. Each department reported that the amount collected from the fees had no significant fiscal impact. Staff recommended an amendment to the Art in Public Places Ordinance to waive those fees not covered under the Capital Improvement Program general permits.

On October 18, 2010, the Arts Commission unanimously passed a motion recommending that cultural contractors and artists receiving city funding be exempt from any applicable permit fees. The Arts Commission was of the view that the revenue collected from these projects was minimal but the costs to the artists for fabrication and installation of the artwork could be significant. On July 18, 2011, the Austin Arts Commission approved the proposed Permit Fee Waiver Program for City-Sponsored Public Art Projects.

Art projects funded by the City of Austin Cultural Contracts (hotel/motel tax revenues) are not covered under this provision.