



**AUSTIN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, June 16, 2014**  
Austin City Hall, Council Chambers  
301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas

Commissioners in attendance: Brett Barnes (Chair), Scott Daigle (Vice-chair), Ernest Auerbach, Lulu Flores, Samuel Tinnon, Bruce Willenzik, Amy Wong Mok (late)

Staff in attendance: Meghan Wells, Lani Golstab, Jesús Pantel, Anna Bradley

**A. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.**

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 19, 2014  
Minutes approved.

**C. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Brad Carlin, Fusebox Festival – Update

**D. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Barnes reminded the Commissioners of the special-called meeting on June 21.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Action Items

- a. Approve the Final Design by Eric Eley for the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Spirit of Austin Lane Cell Phone Waiting Area Art in Public Places Project

Presenter: Anna Bradley, Art in Public Places

Motion: to approve the final design by Eric Eley for the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Spirit of Austin Lane Cell Phone Waiting Area Art in Public Places Project

Made by: Tinnon      Seconded by: Daigle

Vote called: passed 6-0, Commissioner Wong Mok absent

- b. Approve the Artist and Design for Cesar Chavez Esplanade Phase Two Art in Public Places Project

Motion: to approve Deborah Mersky as the artist and her design for the Cesar Chavez Esplanade Phase Two Art in Public Places Project

Made by: Daigle      Seconded by: Willenzik

Vote called: passed 6-0, Commissioner Wong Mok absent

- c. Approve Community Initiatives Funding Recommendations

14 CI 37, Subud International Cultural Association  
14 CI 38 SP, Center for Women & Their Work/Project Abundant Life  
14 CI 39 SP, Austin Creative Alliance/Joseph Thompson aka DJ Bling  
Motion: to approve the Community Initiatives Funding Recommendations  
Made by: Flores                      Seconded by: Daigle  
Vote called: passed 6-0, Commissioner Wong Mok absent

d. Presentation of Hispanic Quality of Life Report Working Group Report  
Working Group Members: Flores, Auerbach, Barnes  
No action taken.

e. Discussion and possible action on the Council Resolution 20140501-036 related to  
Special Events Funding Models  
Presenter: Bill Manno, Corporate Special Events Manager

Motion: The Arts Commission is concerned that awarding Hotel Occupancy Tax funds in a  
manner or for an intent that is not consistent with the law may cause the Legislature to amend  
such regulations or further restrict the allowed uses  
Made by: Wong Mok                      Seconded by: Auerbach  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission recommends that any new process be thoroughly well-developed  
and vetted before implementation, to be comparable to or as rigorous as the Cultural Arts  
Division funding process, and include the necessary steps to keep politics out of the deliberation  
Made by: Flores                      Seconded by: Willenzik  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission requests the results of any research related to the use of Hotel  
Occupancy Tax funds and/or other funding models, to be provided as soon as possible, as they  
become available, prior to any further consideration of the proposal  
Made by: Flores                      Seconded by: Wong Mok  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission requests a needs assessment with documentation, including  
financial impact to the City and to event producers, which necessitates the creation of a special  
events fund  
Made by: Auerbach                      Seconded by: Wong Mok  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission recommends that a complete cost/benefit analysis be performed  
prior to the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax funds and that the results of the analysis be made public  
Made by: Daigle                      Seconded by: Auerbach  
Vote called: passed 6-0, Auerbach off the dais

Motion: The Arts Commission requests that all subsequent public meeting or hearing postings  
related to special events funding models include possible implications of the use of Hotel  
Occupancy Tax funds and will be distributed to all cultural contractors and peer panelists

Made by: Tinnon                      Seconded by: Flores  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission recommends that the definition of “cultural” recognized by either the National Endowment for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts, or the City’s cultural funding program be the accepted standard and that any process that judges multi-disciplinary applicants and administers financial support be done by a qualified multidisciplinary peer panel

Made by: Daigle                      Seconded by: Auerbach  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission recommends consideration of our local cultural contracts best practices, as well as best practices from other cities

Made by: Flores                      Seconded by: Auerbach  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission requests to be included in any discussion of potential changes to the distribution of Hotel Occupancy Tax funds

Made by: Flores                      Seconded by: Tinnon  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: The Arts Commission requests that should the special events funding proposal include the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax funds, that City Council delay action until the end of the 4th quarter of the 2014 calendar year so that the Arts Commission and other stakeholders have had sufficient time to complete their work in a comprehensive and responsible manner

Made by: Daigle                      Seconded by: Auerbach  
Vote called: passed 7-0

Motion: to combine the previous actions on this item into a single recommendation

Made by: Willenzik                      Seconded by: Flores  
Vote called: passed 7-0

f. Establish a Special Events Funding Models Working Group

Motion: to establish a Special Events Funding Models Working Group including Commissioners Willenzik, Daigle, and Flores with Commissioner Tinnon as alternate, as well as members of the arts community to be determined

Made by: Flores                      Seconded by: Wong Mok  
Vote called: passed 7-0

The Commission took a five minute recess.

g. Establish an FY 2014-2015 Funding Working Group

No action taken.

## **F. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

Art in Public Places Administrator Meghan Wells and Marketing Specialist Lani Golstab gave updates on division activities.

**G. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. Commissioner Daigle gave information about current exhibits at The Contemporary Austin – Laguna Gloria.

**H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Special presentation by Don Pitts, Music & Entertainment Division, and/or Brad Spies, Austin Music Commission
2. Discussion and Possible Action Related to the Hispanic Quality of Life Report Working Group Recommendations

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Barnes adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:55 p.m.