



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ARTS COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: 20140616-E1E

Discussion and action on the Council Resolution 20140501-036 related to Special Events Funding Models

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Date of Approval: June 16, 2014

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote

Attest: _____
