



AUSTIN ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
Special Called Meeting – Tuesday, August 2, 2016
The Off Center
2211 Hidalgo Street, Austin, Texas 78702

Commissioners in attendance: Lulu Flores (Chair), Brett Barnes, Michelle Polgar (Vice Chair), Teruko Nimura, Jaime Castillo, Alissa McCain, Chris Bryan, Bruce Willenzik, Amy Wong Mok (arrived late), Matt Stillwell

Staff in attendance: Meghan Wells, Jesús Pantel, Anne-Marie McKaskle, Sylnovia Holt-Rabb

Chair Flores called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 18, 2016

Approved. Willenzik seconded Bryan - Vice Chair Polgar Abstained, 8-0-1 –Commissioner Mok not present

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

a. Madge Darlington, The Off Center -

b. Elizabeth Rogers, Board President of Texas Accountant and Lawyers for the Arts - conveyed support and offered information on services of TALA and to serve as a resource

c. Josh Green- Pump Project – spoke about difficulty for non-profits to get loans; called for the creating of a loan program by looking at Music Assistance Fund and expanding that to other non-profits/arts groups.

d. John Riedie, CEO Austin Creative Alliance – Advocated for the support of initiatives focusing on affordability of venues and making investments in the community, and reaching out to Tech industry for investments

e. Peggy Ellithorpe, Austin Creative Alliance – Requested support for the Creative Trust and support of independent, non-profit run venues

Commissioner Mok Arrived on the dais

f. Jason Phelps, Create Space – Expressed support for the selected the top four priorities, expressed support for a city-wide marketing campaign and an Expo that connects businesses and tech companies with artists and arts organizations

g. Brad Carlin, Managing Director of Fuse Box – ThinkEAST update, advocated for public/private partnerships and city policy that would facilitate that

h. Calder Kamin, Small Business Program with Economic Development – Update and invitation to Getting Connected, and Artist Inc cohort update

i. Patti Neff-Tiven, Co-Director of Ground Floor Theatre – Ground Floor Theater update and difficulties of having to meet new code requirements due to expenses

j. Tara Bhattacharia, Antumbre Events and Media – update on events that they are offering

k. John Pointer, musician – Advocated for revenue development for artists, similar with what New Orleans

- l. Cookie Ruiz, Managing Director of Ballet Austin – Advocated to keep the concerns that are being discussed is continued to be discussed with Council on going and consider how the artist are compensated
- m. Joseph Xavier Patterson – update on conference/hack-a-thon (@fueltherevolution) and invited the Commission to use off-site information gathering mechanisms
- n. Derek Kolluri – Expressed concern for lack of venue space and focus expanding the funding models and more frequent and cheaper access to City facilities and advocated expediting the situation Ground Floor is facing
- o. Rakefet Laviolette, Rattletree – Update on Rattletree; advocated on the importance of Agent of Change and the need to broaden language in Omnibus by including all creatives in all recommendations
- p. Florinda Bryant, Managing Director – Salvage Vanguard Theatre stressed the difficulties of creatives making a living and staying in Austin
- q. Faiza Kracheni, Motion Media Arts Center – Offering space @ their new facility

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and Possible Action relating to the Music and Creative Ecosystem Omnibus Resolution
Establish a Working Group

Motion: Motion to adopt the 10 items listed in the staff report as priorities as listed and in addition add:

- safety net
- venue assistance fund
- public art in private development
- PR Program to drive overall attendance (under revenue development?)
- cultural districts

and to broaden the language to include creatives wherever possible and change the priorities to active voice and highlight the need for urgency and immediate action

Motion to amend the motion (Stillwell, seconded Polgar) bring forth a formal recommendation allocate \$350,000 from the general fund to establish an Emergency Venue Assistance Fund outside of the Omnibus Resolution

Amendment to the main motion – Motion carries unanimously

Made by: Polgar Seconded: Castillo

Vote called: 10-0

Motion to clarify the top six priorities:

1. Affordable Space
2. Venue Assistance Fund
3. Land use
4. Permitting and Licensing
5. Incentives
6. Agent of Change
7. The remaining staff recommendations and the additional items added by the Commission are not currently prioritized

Made by: Polgar Seconded: Stillwell

Vote called: 10-0

Motion: to establish a working group to craft the resolution with Chair Flores, Commissioner Castillo, Vice Chair Polgar, and Commissioner Nimura

Made by: Polgar Seconded: Stillwell

Vote called: 10-0

Motion: to establish a Policy Working Group with Commissioners McCain, Barnes, Bryan and appoint interested public members.

Made by: Polgar Seconded: Stillwell

Vote called: 10-0

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Division Manager Meghan Wells gave updates on Cultural Arts Division activities.
Lulu requested to have a copy of the in-progress items Meghan presented

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Revisit the minutes from 8-18-16
Establishing a joint Music and Arts Working Group to discuss affordability

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm