



**Music &
Entertainment**

CITY OF AUSTIN
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP), FY21-22

Proposed Updated Guidelines

Music & Entertainment Division
City of Austin Economic Development Department

Purpose

To provide direct support to qualifying creative organizations facing temporary or permanent displacement, or to those previously displaced.



A photograph of an art gallery with several colorful abstract paintings on the walls. The scene is lit with track lighting. A blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Creative Space Assistance Program'. At the bottom of the box, it says 'Deadline to submit eligibility requirements: March 29 www.austintexas.gov/csap'.

CSAP Program Overview

- Program Budget is \$1 Million for FY22 (October 2021-September 2022)
- Awards between \$5,000 - \$50,000
- Program eligibility includes:
 - Arts-focused nonprofits
 - Select for-profit creative businesses, as allowed by definitions within the program guidelines
 - Independent artists seeking support for short-term or month-to-month commercial lease
 - Property must be in Austin city limits or ETJ

For-Profit Applicant Eligibility

- **Live Music Venue**: An establishment where live music programming is the principal function of the business and/or the business is a live music destination, and where the venue clearly establishes the ability of an artist to receive payment for work by percentage of sales, guarantee or other mutually beneficial formal agreement for every performance. A live music venue is a destination for live music consumers, and/or its music programming and is the primary driver of its business as indicated by the presence of at least five (5) of the following:
 - a) Defined performance and audience space;
 - b) Mixing desk, PA system, and lighting rig;
 - c) Back line;
 - d) At least two of the following: (i) sound engineer, (ii) booker, (iii) promoter, (iv) stage manager, or (v) security personnel;
 - e) Charges cover charge to some music performance through ticketing or front door entrance fee;
 - f) Markets specific acts through show listings in printed and electronic publications;
 - g) Hours of operation coincide with performance times; or
 - h) Programs live music at least five nights a week.
- **Performance Venue / Theater**: An establishment whose principal function and mission is to present live performances, plays, live music, film screenings, or other performances of artistic work produced by an artist, or arts and culture organization, accessible by public audiences.
- **Museum / Art Gallery**: Facility whose principal function and mission is to exhibit, present, and/or sell artistic work in a variety of media produced by an artist, artist collective, or arts and culture organization, accessible by public audiences. (For the purposes of this program's eligibility, this will not include City-run/owned, State-run/owned, or Federally-run/owned facilities.)

Eligible Uses of Funds

- Rent stipend
- Gap financing for property acquisition
- Other space-related needs, such as facility improvements, displacement-related expenditures, and predevelopment planning

Proposed Changes for 2021-22

- **Benchmark-Driven Distribution instead of Reimbursement:** Gives money to the awardee up front and on a scheduled basis instead of after an expenditure is made.
- **Rent Stipend Calculation:** Based on percentage of contracted base rent.
- **Establishment of an Award Minimum:** Award amount of at least \$5,000.
- **New Recipient Bonus:** 10 bonus points for applicants who have not received: Creative Space Assistance Program, Creative Space Disaster Relief Program, Live Music Venue Preservation Fund, Legacy Business Relief Grant, Small Business Relief Grant, or Non-Profit Creative Relief Grant.

Proposed Changes for 2021-22

- **New Scoring Criteria for Equity:**
 - Applicant Representation of Communities of Color is added. The applicant (or a majority of the ownership of the applicant, if the applicant is a business) belongs to a segment of Austin's historically underrepresented population in City funding (Black/African American, Native American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander).
 - Community Benefit replaces Organizational Stability/Project Readiness.
- **Process for Scoring and Program Administration:** Under consideration as we receive more feedback and determine staff capacity.

Program Contact

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