

# Cultural Arts Funding Update

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**Economic  
Development**  
CITY OF AUSTIN

## Clarification and updates since August 9:

- **Third Party administrator?**
- **What about tourism?**
- **Is racial representation the only factor for points?**
- **Who defines “equity” and how it is operationalized?**
- **Why are white-led orgs being left out?**
- **I don't understand Thrive vs. Elevate?**
- **Where's the data you're using?**

## Clarification and updates since August 9:

- **Third Party administrator?** Resounding no. Keep every possible dollar in artists' pockets.
- **What about tourism?** Still required by state law, nothing changed.
- **Is racial representation the only factor for points?** No. It is a priority, but not exclusionary.
- **Who defines “equity” and how is it operationalized?** We have a starter list, and more conversation needed WITH you.
- **Why are white-led orgs being left out?** We are now launching Elevate to address concerns.
- **I don't understand Thrive vs. Elevate?** These program guidelines are in progress, and we need more conversation WITH you.
- **Where's the data you're using?** We are adding historical funding info to the City's Open Data Portal.
  
- A more robust webpage has been created at <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/cultural-funding>

# What are the next steps/things to remember?

- We will continue to solicit, assess, and incorporate feedback. With ARPA likely being distributed before the end of 2021, we are looking at spring 2022 to launch HOT-funded programs
- We provided a briefing to Council on 8/24; will go to Audit & Finance Committee 9/22; likely again to full Council in near future
- The City has made available \$25M in relief funds to the creative/cultural community up to this point
- Arts Commission Working Group continues to explore alternative funding sources.
- We are still in Stage 5. This continues to place constraints on events/travel that were factored into the projected HOT Funds for FY22
- We invite the community to come to the table with solution-focused feedback, that are reflective of equity. Please utilize the "Operationalized Equity" document hosted on our website as a resource.
- Recognize that there are reasons that prevent some community members from taking a public stand or speaking out publicly. Feedback has been contributed anonymously and confidentially to allow for full disclosure without fear of repercussion or judgment.

# Questions?