



## Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021

### Arts Commission

**The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:**

Advise the city council in all arts-related matters, including long range planning, allocations process, and coordination with the comprehensive plan; promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting activities relating to the arts in the city, so that all art resources within the city may be coordinated to maximize promotion and support of the arts in the city; facilitate communication between arts organizations; and foster and assist the development of the arts in the city.

1. **Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**
  - a. Submitted the following recommendation to City Council:
    - i. *Arts Commission Recommendation 20200624-5.a*
      - I. *Support Austin Non-profit Arts Organizations' request for \$5M in additional funding*
    - ii. *Arts Commission Recommendation 20200928-4.d*
      - I. *Support City of Austin 2020 Legislative Agenda*
    - iii. *Arts Commission Recommendation-20201019-5.a*
      - I. *Resolution in support of African American Cultural Heritage District*
    - iv. *Arts Commission Recommendation 20210315-5.a.i*
      - I. *Recommendation is support of additional funding for two years for artists and arts organizations*
    - v. *Arts Commission Recommendation 20210315-4.b.ii*
      - I. *Approve two full time employees for Cultural Arts Division*
  - b. Approved FY 21 Funding Matrix and Allocations

- c. Approved the following Cultural Funding Guidelines:
  - i. *FY 21 Community Initiatives Guidelines*
  
- d. Approved the following Community Initiatives funding recommendations:
  - i. *Q1 (Events beginning October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019)*
    - I. *Austin Foundation for Architecture - \$3,500*
    - II. *Co-Lab Projects/ Universe Way - \$3,000*
    - III. *ICOSA Collective - \$2,850*
    - IV. *Luis Armando Ordaz - \$3,200*
    - V. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ BSoM Artist Residency - \$3,000*
    - VI. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ Improv|On and Off the Stage - \$3,500*
    - VII. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ Revive & Thrive - \$3,000*
    - VIII. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ Ruido/Noise - \$3,000*
  
  - ii. *Q2 (Events beginning January 1, 2020 – March 31, 2020)*
    - I. *Andrew Brown - \$3,000*
    - II. *Aruna Kharod - \$3,500*
    - III. *Arunachala Nagarajan - \$3,000*
    - IV. *Austin Creative Alliance/ LVnTheLife - \$3,300*
    - V. *Austin Creative Alliance/ SAGE Studio - \$3,000*
    - VI. *Austin Performing Arts Group - \$3,000*
    - VII. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ Addressing the Elephant in the Room - \$3,000*
    - VIII. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ Diverse Literary Voices - \$3,000*
    - IX. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ So You Think You Funny Austin Comedy Showcase - \$3,000*
    - X. *Capitol View Arts/ Black Fashion Extra - \$3,500*
    - XI. *Capitol View Arts/ Eastside Teens Turnt - \$3,000*
    - XII. *Capitol View Arts/ First Saturdays - \$3,000*
    - XIII. *Dance Another World - \$3,500*
    - XIV. *Emily Cahill - \$3,000*
    - XV. *Insect Records, LLC - \$3,000*
    - XVI. *Jonathan Muzacz - \$3,500*
    - XVII. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ Devin Alejandro-Wilder - \$3,000*
    - XVIII. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ Kuniklo - \$3,000*
    - XIX. *VORTEX Repertory Co/ Avante Theatre - \$3,000*
  
  - iii. *Q3 (Events beginning April 1, 2020 – June 20, 2020)*
    - I. *Ashwin Ramanathan - \$3,500*
    - II. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ Dancing in the Moonlight - \$3,000*

- III. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ Dktr N9ne and Friends Presents - \$3,000*
  - IV. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ EXP 2K21 - \$3,000*
  - V. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ New Moon Gatherings - \$3,000*
  - VI. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ The Future is Black - \$3,000*
  - VII. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ Teeta World Exhibit - \$3,000*
  - VIII. *Austin Revitalization Authority/ Where to do we Go From Here - \$3,000*
  - IX. *Blowcomotion - \$3,000*
  - X. *Capitol View Arts/ Austin Urban Hip Hop Night - \$3,000*
  - XI. *Capitol View Arts/ Juneteenth Block Party - \$3,000*
  - XII. *Douglas Richard Laustsen - \$3,000*
  - XIII. *Emmet Hunker - \$3,000*
  - XIV. *Inversion Ensemble Inc - \$3,000*
  - XV. *Michael D. Romero - \$3,000*
  - XVI. *Gabriella Sturchio - \$3,000*
  - XVII. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ Chucky Blk - \$3,500*
  - XVIII. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ East: Sun-Rise - \$3,000*
  - XIX. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ IN SITU artisan collective - \$3,500*
  - XX. *The Museum of Human Achievement/ Wendy Yamilett - \$3,500*
- e. Approved the following Art in Public Places processes/ prospectuses/ designs/ recommendations:
- i. *Approve the Final Design for the Austin Bergstrom International Airport Parking Garage and Administration Building Phase II \*
  - ii. *Approve the comprehensive Prospectus for the 2018 Bond Austin Fire Department – Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services*
  - iii. *Approve the Prospectus for the Anderson Mill Road Regional Mobility*
  - iv. *Selection Process Recommendation for the AIPP Corridor Construction Project Pre-Qualified Artist Pool*
  - v. *Prospectus for thirteen Corridor Construction Program*
  - vi. *Prospectus for the Pharr Tennis Center*
  - vii. *Prospectus for the 2021-2023 AIPP Pre-Qualified Artist Pool*
  - viii. *Extension of 2019-20 TEMPO 2D Public Art Projects*
  - ix. *Final Design by artist Olaniyi Akindiyi for East 51st Streetscape*
  - x. *Final Design by artist Gigi Miller for the Ricky Guerrero Park*
  - xi. *Approved the following prioritized list of jurors to serve on the deaccession of AIPP artwork Special Jury:*
    - I. *Jade Walker*
    - II. *Laura Esparza*
    - III. *Dr. George Vargas*
    - IV. *Luis Angulo*
  - xii. *Prospectus for the AFD/EMS AIPP Stations Projects (4 Stations)*

- xiii. Prospectus for the TEMPO 2021 program*
  - xiv. Prospectus for Gus Garcia Recreation Center*
  - xv. Deaccession of AIPP Artwork Republic Square Fountain by James Turner*
  - xvi. Deaccession of AIPP Artwork Moments by Carl Trominski*
  - xvii. Deaccession of AIPP Artwork LAB by Next Project*
  - xviii. Deaccession of AIPP Artwork Karst Circle by Gary W. Smith*
  - xix. Deaccession of AIPP Artwork Bicentennial Fountain by Ken Fowler*
  - xx. Selection Process Recommendations for (2) Airport Boulevard Corridor Program*
  - xxi. Selection Process Recommendation for the Anderson Mill Road*
  - xxii. Revised Prospectus for the Barton Springs Bathhouse Renovation*
  - xxiii. Final Design by Artist Raul Valdez for the Govalle Park Pool*
  - xxiv. Revised Art in Public Places Ordinance Guidelines*
  - xxv. Final Design by artist James Edward Talbot for the Little Stacy Neighborhood Park*
  - xxvi. Selection Process Recommendations for TEMPO 2021*
  - xxvii. Selection Process Recommendation for the 2021–2023 Art in Public Places Pre-Qualified Artist Pool*
  - xxviii. Selection Process Recommendation for the South Lamar Blvd Corridor Construction Program*
  - xxix. Selection Process Recommendation for (2) North Lamar Blvd Corridor Construction Program*
  - xxx. Selection Process Recommendation for the Guadalupe/24th St. Corridor Construction Program*
  - xxxi. Final Design by Marianne Levy for the TEMPO 2021*
  - xxxii. Final Design by Suzanne Wyss and Ilya Pieper for the TEMPO 2021*
- f. Reviewed 8 proposed artwork donations or loans to the City of Austin:
- i. Artwork Loan of “Blue Trees” art installation by Konstantin Dimopoulos, loaned by Pease Park Conservancy and located at Pease District Park*
  - ii. Artwork Loan of TEMPO 2D mural entitled Low On The Treble by Kel Brown, located at Rosewood Neighborhood Park (2300 Rosewood Ave), loaned by Kel Brown*
  - iii. Artwork Loan of TEMPO 2D mural entitled OG Austinite (Barton Springs Salamander) by Luis Angulo, located at 1627 Barton Springs Rd., loaned by Luis Angulo*
  - iv. Artwork Loan of TEMPO 2D mural entitled Meander by Veronica Ceci, located at 2914 N Lamar Ave., loaned by Veronica Ceci*
  - v. Final Design by Damon Moseley for the St. John Pocket Park Art in Public Places Project*
  - vi. Selection Process Recommendation for the Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park Art in Public Places Project*
  - vii. Selection Process Recommendation for the Pharr Tennis Center Art in Public Places Project*

*viii. Selection Process Recommendations for six Austin Fire Department-  
Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services Art in Public  
Places Projects*

g. Elected Michelle Polgar as Chair and Celina Zisman as Vice Chair of the Arts Commission

h. Appointed the following people to the Art in Public Places Panel:

*i. Jonathan Muzacz*

*ii. Re-appointed Sarah Carr*

*iii. Re-Appoint Joel Nolan*

*iv. Re-Appoint Stephanie Lemmo*

i. Nominated Commissioner kYmberly Keeton to serve as the Arts Commission Liaison for the Downtown Commission

j. Approved the FY 21 Arts Commission meeting schedule

k. 9 Arts Commission Working Groups were established to review and present recommendations on the following items:

*i. Equity Resources Working Group with Commissioners Keeton, and Van Dyke who will serve as chair.*

*ii. "Imagine-Austin Town Center" Joint Working Group with Economic Prosperity, Veteran's, and Music Commissions with Commissioners Van Dyke, and Garza*

*iii. Working Group to recommend nominee(s) to the Austin Economic Development Corporation Board comprised of Commissioners Flores, Keeton, and Polgar*

*iv. Art Neighborhoods program working group, with Commission Chair Van Dyke, Zisman, Mok, Gray*

*v. Quarterly Arts Community and Commission meetup working groups to create the meetup planning outline with Commissioners Castillo, Garza, and Barnes*

*vi. Joint Art & Music Land Development Working Group with Commissioners Vice Chair Polgar, Chair Castillo*

*vii. Joint Cultural Committee with Commissioners Vice Chair Polgar, Chair Castillo*

*viii. Emergency funding and proactive strategies for future funding with Commissioners Flores, Polgar, Van Dyke, Zisman with Commissioner Barnes as back-up*

*ix. Joint Music/Arts Commission Working Group to identify additional funding resources and strategies beyond HOT with Commissioner Schmalbach, and Commissioner Flores*

- l. 3 Arts Commission Working Groups presented reports:
  - i. *Sunset - Creative Space Assistance Program joint Arts & Music Working Group – Commissioners Fonte, Polgar and Zisman*
  - ii. *Sunset - “Imagine-Austin Town Center” Joint Working Group with Economic Prosperity, Veteran’s, and Music Commissions with Commissioners Van Dyke, and Garza*
  - iii. *Working Group to recommend nominee(s) to the Austin Economic Development Corporation Board comprised of Commissioners Flores, Keeton, and Polgar*
  
- m. Arts Commission received the following Staff Briefings:
  - i. *COVID-19 update*
  - ii. *August 2021 Cultural Funding Review Process update*
  - iii. *Council approved budget and CYE – Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director Economic Development Department*
  - iv. *September 2021 Cultural Funding Review Process update – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager*
  - v. *CSAP Update*
  - vi. *October 2021 Cultural Funding Review Process update – Jesus Pantel, Cultural Funding Supervisor*
  - vii. *October 2021 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Update – Sylnovia Holt-Rabb*
  - viii. *Economic Development Organization*
  - ix. *Creative Space Bond*
  - x. *Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP) Update*
  - xi. *Creative Space Bond - Shawn Willett, City of Austin Purchasing Office*
  - xii. *November 2021 Cultural Funding Review Process update – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager*
  - xiii. *November 2021 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Update – Sylnovia Holt-Rabb*
  - xiv. *Economic Development Organization*
  - xv. *Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP) Update*
  - xvi. *Austin Economic Development Corporation (AECDC) and \$12 million Creative Bond updates – David Colligan, AECDC Acting Chief Operating Officer*
  - xvii. *Museums and Cultural Programs Division update – Laura Esparza, Division Manager*
  - xviii. *Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) Update – Jesse Rodriguez*
  - xix. *December 2021 Cultural Funding Review Process update – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager*
  - xx. *December 2021 Hotel Occupancy Tax update – Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Economic Development Department Director*
  - xxi. *Cultural Funding Review Process update – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager*

- xxii.c. Update on Creative Space Bond – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division*
  - xxiii. January 2021 Hotel Occupancy Tax update – Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Economic Development Department Director*
  - xxiv. January 2021 Cultural Funding update – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager*
    - I. Current Year*
    - II. Cultural Funding Review Process update*
  - xxv. March 2021 Cultural Funding Update – Meghan Wells*
    - I. Current Year*
    - II. Review Process update*
  - xxvi. Dougherty Arts Center Redevelopment update*
  - xxvii. Cultural Centers Audit update*
  - xxviii. April 2021 Hotel Occupancy Tax update – Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Economic Development Department Director*
  - xxix. April 2021 Cultural Funding Update – Meghan Wells*
    - I. Current Year (FY21)*
    - II. COVID relief & recovery*
    - III. Review Process update*
  - xxx. George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural & Genealogy Center Facility Expansion Plan Update - Gregory Montes, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department*
  - xxxi. Economic Recovery and Resiliency Framework – Veronica Briseno, City of Austin Chief Economic Recovery Officer*
  - xxxii. May 2021 Cultural Funding Update – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager*
  - xxxiii. June 2021 Hotel Occupancy Tax Update – Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Economic Development Department*
  - xxxiv. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update - Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Economic Development Department*
  - xxxv. June 2021 Cultural Funding Interim Report and Cultural Funding Review Process Update – Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager*
- n. Arts Commission received the following special presentations:
- i. State Legislative Update – Brie Franco, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, City of Austin*
  - ii. Lilia Rosas with Red Salmon Arts*
  - iii. Peter Ortiz, Visual Artist*
  - iv. \$12 Million Creative Bond Request for Information Overview – Christine Maguire.*
  - v. Austin Economic Development Organization Recommendation to Council Overview –Matthew Kwatinetz*

- vi. *Austin Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) Update - Veronica Briseño, City of Austin Chief Economic Recovery Officer and Matthew Kwatinetz, QPartners Consultant*
- vii. *Downtown Austin Alliance's Roadmap to Recovery & Resilience – Molly Alexander, Downtown Austin Alliance*
- viii. *Austin FC ATXFC Artist Initiative – Kaitlin Swarts, Vice President, Community Impact - Austin FC and James Ruth, Senior Vice President, Marketing - Austin FC*
- ix. *Mural by Arturo Herrera at Waterloo Park and Waterloo Park Update - Melissa Ayala, Waterloo Greenway*
- o. Held 3 Special Called Meetings:
  - i. *Joint Arts and Music Commission Meeting – September 11, 2020*
  - ii. *Joint Arts and Music Commission Meeting – February 7, 2021*
  - iii. *Joint Arts and Music Commission Meeting – April 27, 2021*
- p. Approved Arts Commission FY 20 Annual Internal Review and FY 21 Goals

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

The Arts Commission's actions are in compliance with the mission statement.

The Commission continues to advise Council on arts related matters and provide oversight of the Cultural Arts Funding Programs and the Art in Public Places Program.

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

- a. Incorporate the FOUR PILLARS into all Arts Commission Programs
  - i. *Cultivate Leadership – develop current and emerging leaders*
  - ii. *Ensure and Encourage Equity – reflect the growing diverse population of Austin*
  - iii. *Foster Collaboration – contribute to Austin's robust arts ecosystem*
  - iv. *Inspire Evolution – achieve advancement through innovation and resiliency*

**b. GOAL I. COUNCIL RELATIONS**

*Increase communication between Commission and Council in order to keep Council abreast of Arts Commission duties and actions.*

*Objectives:*



- a. *Commissioners to meet face-to-face at least quarterly with appointing Council Member \*\* except during period of shelter in place orders in effect*
- b. *Commissioners to communicate monthly with their Council Member's staff*
- c. *Commission to monitor the activity of the Council Economic Opportunity Committee and become involved as needed*  
*Educate new Council Members about the Cultural Arts Division and goals of its programs, including Civic Arts, Cultural Funding Programs and Art in Public Places*

c. GOAL II. CULTURAL ARTS FUNDING

*Maintain oversight of Cultural Arts Funding to ensure appropriate distribution and use.*

*Objectives:*

- a. *On a monthly basis, monitor Cultural Arts Funding to ensure appropriate use*
- b. *Review and recommend for appropriate action all cultural funding program applications*
- c. *Review all recommended Art in Public Places projects and recommend appropriate action*
- d. *Encourage collaboration among arts organizations through policies and guidelines to maximize resources, effectiveness, productivity and quality of work, minimize fracturing among arts groups, and increase the overall impact of cultural arts funding in arts community*
- e. *Review funding program guidelines annually and revise as needed.*

d. GOAL III. PUBLIC ART

*Maintain support for the Art in Public Places program*

*Objectives:*

- a. *On a monthly basis, take action on project or program recommendations from staff or the Art in Public Places Panel*
- b. *Build a strong framework of understanding and communication between the Arts Commission and the Art in Public Places Panel*

e. GOAL IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*Maintain a robust working knowledge and understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Arts Commission by all Commissioners*

*Objectives:*

- a. *Orient any newly appointed Commissioners on the role of the Arts Commission through the use of the Arts Commission orientation document upon appointment*

*b. Conduct an annual Arts Commission all-day retreat*

*c. Review goals quarterly to track progress*

**f. GOAL V. LIAISON GROUPS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

*Ensure appropriate representation and working relationship with all Liaison groups and other related Boards and Commissions through meeting attendance and presentations*

*Objectives:*

*a. Select representatives to serve on the following groups:*

*i. Art in Public Places Panel*

*ii. Downtown Commission*

*iii. Other working groups and assignments as needed*

*b. Build and maintain a stronger working relationship with Arts in Public Places Panel, Music Commission and other Liaison groups*

*c. Each Commissioner will attend a related Boards & Commissions regular meeting, (i.e. Music Commission, Library, African American Quality of Life, etc.) at least once per year.*

**g. GOAL VI. CULTURAL CONTRACTORS**

*Maintain a strong relationship and understanding of all Cultural contractors*

*Objectives:*

*a. Each Commissioner will attend a minimum of 12 cultural contractor performances/exhibits per year*

*b. Each Commissioner will attend a minimum of 1 Art in Public Places project dedication per year*

**h. GOAL VII. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

*Maintain a strong working relationship and increase engagement with local arts organizations and communities – especially historically underserved (BIPOC) and marginalized (including LGBTQ and Disability) communities.*

*Objectives:*

*a. Increase communications about upcoming Commission meetings and cultural arts funding.*

*b. Establish better working relationships with various arts organizations around Austin including ACA, AMP, and Big Medium (others) by regular outreach and communication through social media and other means*

*c. Each Commissioner to invite at least 2 cultural contractors or new arts organization to attend and present at a regular Commission meeting*

*d. Conduct special outreach to historically underserved (BIPOC) and marginalized (including LGBTQ and Disability) Communities about opportunities and funding available through the Cultural Arts Division*

i. GOAL VIII. ISSUES AND ADVOCACY

*Advocate on behalf of Arts constituents and increase their awareness of the function and role of the Arts Commission and of the importance of their own participation and engagement.*

*Objectives:*

- a. Increase our understanding of the pulse of the arts community's needs and issues by attending community events*
- b. Raise awareness and increase communication with constituents through social media and face-to-face networking about issues before the Commission and City Council related to the Arts.*
- c. Encourage participation of all arts groups and communities on issues before the Commission and Council on an ongoing basis.*
- d. Bring concerns of the arts community before Council through appropriate actions and communications*
- e. Address issues facing the arts communities including but not limited to affordability, transportation, quality of life, and venue preservation and propose comprehensive recommendations for solutions and actions to Council*
- f. Seek funding for continuation of the Arts Space Assistance Program*

j. GOAL IX. DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT

*Deepen Relationship and responsiveness to representative districts*

*Objectives:*

- a. Continue to propose suggestions for community outreach and inclusion aimed at making meetings more accessible and vital to the districts represented*
- b. Track and analyze the projects/artists funded by district as well as other demographics such as race, gender and sexual identity to best ensure equitable distribution of funding, projects, and programming throughout the districts to the extent possible.*