

Cultural Arts Funding Review Process Update

ARTS COMMISSION

JULY 18, 2022



Next steps



Holistic Funding Ecosystem

Nexus

Nurture new and emerging applicants by funding creative public projects developed through community activation and/or collaboration.

Elevate

Creative and administrative expenses of cultural producers that amplify equity and prioritize inclusive programming.

Thrive

Focused investment to sustain and grow arts organizations that are deeply rooted in, and reflective of Austin's diverse cultures.

October 12th
Launch!



Pilot Program **Thrive** in Detail

	Thrive
Goal	Invest in diverse cultural institutions
Contract Term	2 years
Type of Funding	Flexible: Project/Operating (+Optional Networking/ Coaching/ Classes)
Who can apply?	501(c) only with 5-year operating history in Austin
Selection Process	Panel
Draft Total Available Funds	~\$3,000,000
Draft Award Amounts	\$80,000 - \$150,000
Draft Number of Awardees	35

Thrive Scoring Categories	Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points
	Mission and Key Constituencies	15
	History of Service	15
	Cultural Leadership	30
Operations		60
	Cultural Activities Relevance and Responsiveness	10
	Intersectionality	5
	Community Relationships	5
	Opportunity creation/ Community benefits	5
	Accessibility	5
	Cultural Institution Status	10
Cultural and Social Impact		40

Panel Recruitment has begun!

austintexas.gov Resident Business Government Departments Connect

[Speak up Austin webpage for the Live Music Fund.](#)

5202 E Ben White Blvd, Ste 400
Austin, 78741

[See Map](#)

Key Contact: Jesus Pantel
[512-974-9315](tel:512-974-9315)
[Contact Email](#)

Apply to be a Panelist

The Economic Development Department is looking for panelists to review, score, and determine which applicants receive funding through various programs. Submitting this form does not guarantee participation.

[Apply to be a Panelist](#)

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Upcoming Panel Opportunities:

Heritage Preservation Grant – Deadline to Apply: August 24

- A program focused on preserving Austin's historic and heritage tourism experiences through capital, planning, educational, or marketing projects.
- Compensation will be provided up to \$900.
- [Learn more about Heritage Preservation panelist responsibilities.](#)

Thrive: Cultural Growth – Deadline to Apply: September 30

- A program focused on helping sustain and grow arts organizations that are deeply rooted in and reflective of Austin's diverse cultures.
- Compensation will be provided up to \$1,500.
- [Learn more about Thrive panelist responsibilities.](#)

Economic Development
CITY OF AUSTIN

Panelist Sign Up Form

Complete this form to be considered as a Review Panelist with the City of Austin Economic Development Department. Selected Review Panelists will evaluate and score applications for grants and funding programs.

We strive to balance many factors in each selection process to create an inclusive Review Panel. Submitting this form does not guarantee participation. If selected, there will be a stipend for your services.

If you have questions, contact us at 512-974-7819 or edd@austintexas.gov.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email *
First Name *
Last Name *
Phone *

Note: to be considered for the **Thrive Panel**, please apply by September 30th

Learn more, Apply, Share: <https://bit.ly/3OlqgBq>

Panel Training



Paid Training (\$300)

Multi-lingual; Videos and pdfs

Three modules:

- Equity and Unconscious bias (including an Austin context and guided discussion)
- Panel Expectations, Program Guidelines, Rubrics, Cultural Tourism requirements
- Technical Training for using the portal system to score applications

Application assignments after training

Panel Composition + Selection

Panels will include:

- A mix of local and out of town panelists (including community members)
- A mix of arts administrators and practicing arts professionals
- A mix of artistic discipline expertise
- Equity expertise
- Community-based artistic practice expertise
- Non-profit expertise

Selection Process:

- 1+ month before close of an application, staff will select a minimum of 15 potential panelists per panel
- Secondary form (detailed experience, availability)
- All panels will have an odd number of panelists
- 7-9 candidates must be available on the day-of meeting(s)

Panel Operations

Operations:

- Public can watch the "day-of" panels
- There will be no interaction between panelists and applicants
- Panelists will be paid for reviewing applications and also paid per meeting day
- There will not be discipline-specific panels
- 501c applications will be reviewed separately from non-501c applications

Program-Specific Panel Details: Thrive

Thrive (7-9 Panelists)

- One multidisciplinary panel will review all Thrive applications
- The panel will review and score applications prior to panel meeting(s)
- The ~50 top scoring applications will be reviewed/discussed during the panel meeting
- Panelists have the option to make a passion plea for an applicant (not top scoring) they feel has merit to be discussed at the virtual panel meeting
- Panelists will be paid for training (\$300), reviewing/scoring applications (\$300), and up to 3 meeting days (\$300/day)

Program-Specific Panel Details

Elevate (40 Panelists)

- **ROUND 1 – 30 Panelists**
 - Minimum of 3 people will review and score each application. Panelists must provide comments.
 - A minimum of 100 top scoring Nonprofit applications will move on to round 2
 - A minimum of 50 top scoring non-501cs will move on to round 2
 - Panelist will have two weeks to review a max of 15 applications each
 - Round 1 panelists will receive payment for completing the panelist training (\$300) as well as reviewing the assigned applications (\$300)
- **ROUND 2 – 5 Panelists Reviewing 501cs; 5 Panelists Reviewing non-501cs**
 - Minimum of 5 people review each application (3-4 weeks to review)
 - A single panel will be held for top-scoring 501c applications and a separate single panel will be held for non-501c applications
 - Round 2 panelists will receive payment for completing the training (\$300), reviewing/scoring applications (\$300), and up to 2 meeting days (\$300/day)