



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: May 10, 2022

In Control: Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Implementation Plan for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Arts

SUMMARY:

On February 3, 2022, City Council allocated \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the arts. The Department of Arts & Culture will provide a briefing of the proposed implementation plan for the distribution of ARPA funds to San Antonio nonprofit arts organizations and artists for possible action by the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee (CHECC).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The COVID-19 pandemic immediately devastated San Antonio's creative economy. The pandemic caused organizations and businesses that house artistic programming to shutter their doors, cancel performances and exhibitions, cut budgets, and reduce personnel. This ultimately

impacted individual artists, who lost jobs and gigs due to these cancellations, budget cuts, and closures.

As of January 12, 2021, the total direct impact to San Antonio arts organizations was estimated to be \$71 million with the \$4.1 billion economic impact of the creative industry in 2019 reduced by 16 percent to \$3.4 billion in 2020. Since this report, with variants like Omicron, the arts continued to be negatively impacted by the pandemic into 2022 with closures and cancellations to keep attendees, artists, and staff safe. The result, according to Americans for the Arts, is that the creative industry is recovering slower than the nation's overall economy.

On February 3, 2022, City Council approved the spending framework for Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received by the City of San Antonio under ARPA. This framework included \$5 million for the arts. On April 12, 2022, the Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee received a briefing on the impact of COVID-19 on the arts community as well as community feedback received through the City of San Antonio's ARPA process.

On May 6, the San Antonio Arts Commission approved a proposed implementation plan for the distribution of ARPA funds to San Antonio arts organizations and artists to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ISSUE:

The Department of Arts & Culture will present the proposed implementation plan for the distribution of ARPA funds to San Antonio arts organizations and artists to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation will include an overview of funding criteria to provide \$4 million in grants to nonprofit arts organizations and \$1 million in grants to individual artists, the proposed grant application process, and key equitable outcome goals and performance indicators.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total budget for the Arts Support Pillar is \$5 million. The budget for the distribution of this funding was approved by City Council on February 3, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should CHECC choose not to approve this item, the Department of Arts & Culture will collect feedback from the committee and make updates to the proposed implementation plan for future CHECC briefing and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Arts & Culture and the San Antonio Arts Commission recommend approval of the ARPA for Arts Implementation Plan by CHECC.