

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

10:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

Members Present: Ana Sandoval, *Chair, Council District 7*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member, Council District 2*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member, Council District 3*
Teri Castillo, *Member, Council District 5*

Members Absent: Mario Bravo *Member, Council District 1*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for January 19, 2021, Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2022 Community Health, Environment, Environment and Culture Committee. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo

Absent: Bravo

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. **Briefing regarding the Events Grants and Project Grants for Individual Artists Programs.**
[Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Krystal Jones, Interim Director, Department of Arts & Culture]

Krystal Jones, Interim Director of the Department of Arts & Culture, introduced her staff and provided background, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria, outreach, process, and status of 23 Events Grants and 60 Individual Artist Project Grants managed by the Department of Arts & Culture. Jones provided examples of the various projects and

events that would be funded through the grant programs.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Sandoval asked for clarification on the grant approval process. Jones explained that the grants were approved in the Budget and the program guidelines allowed for the San Antonio Arts Commission to approve these grants as they were all below \$20,000.

Councilmember Castillo noted that this was a great program and suggested that this funding framework might be replicated for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding. Jones replied that the SA CARES 4 Art Framework was being reviewed but the Department would like to see what the CHEC views were. Councilmember Castillo asked the department to share a map of those who received ARPA funds.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed his support for the Arts and would like to see the program grow over time. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez suggested that even though there were bonus points for people of color, he wanted to see more outreach specifically to the Black community, Council District 2 residents and even a separate funding set aside for Black artists or organizations. Assistant City Manager David McCary offered a collaboration between the Department of Arts & Culture and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department.

3. Briefing regarding the proposed deconstruction ordinance and related items including a materials reuse center. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Shanon Miller, Director, Office of Historic Preservation]

Shanon Miller, Director of Historic Preservation, introduced the Item and Senior Historic Preservation Specialist Stephanie Phillips who explained the difference between demolition and deconstruction. Phillips described deconstruction program priorities of supporting affordable housing, creating a circular economy, increasing the local pool of trades people and growing local industries related to deconstruction. Phillips provided an overview of the strategic plan and outcomes of improved environment and air quality. Miller closed the presentation by providing a timeline for the program phasing plan, partnerships, metrics with anticipated results and next steps for City Council approval including adoption of Ordinances.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Viagran asked for a breakdown of the cost to demolish versus deconstruct. Miller said that there was typically an additional cost to deconstruct of \$1,200 which will decrease as more reuse markets become available. Councilmember Viagran asked if only vacant homes were targeted and if the staff had information on the owners as she was concerned that some of the homes might be legacy family homes. Miller replied that staff would seek the information and provide as they are able to collect it.

Councilmember Castillo saw the program as an opportunity to lead the nation and recommended staff align the program with Ready to Work. Miller described current training efforts through the Living Heritage Trades Academy and stated that the material innovation center was envisioned to be a training location for workforce development. Councilmember Castillo suggested the project timeline take into consideration the work

performed to update the City Code.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on the cost and benefits and whether the student program targeted High School or College age students. Miller explained that the program targeted buildings built before 1925 because they used quality materials and offered a phased approach to the deconstruction, and they were targeting both high school age and young adults.

Chair Sandoval asked for more information on the partnerships and other businesses involved in creating the program including the goal for the number of contractors that might be able to participate. Miller replied that staff had met with Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity as well as construction and demolition companies for input and help designing the program starting with deconstruction training and certification and currently there were approximately 10 contractors certified. Chair Sandoval added that demolition contractors seemed very interested in the deconstruction program.

Chair Sandoval asked about enforcement. Miller stated that enforcement would be a partnership between the Office of Historic Preservation and the Development Services Department. Chair Sandoval expressed concern with regard to necessary mitigation and abatement of environmental hazards in newer housing stock. Phillips explained that there was no State or Federal requirement to remediate prior to demolishing. Sandoval recommended exploring whether the City could mandate remediation. Assistant City Manager David McCary confirmed that he would look into the opportunity and report back.

No action was taken on this Item.

- 4. Briefing by the Disability Access Office to provide an overview of the purpose, accomplishments and partnerships with City Departments, the Disability Access Advisory Committee, and community organizations.** [Andy Segovia, City Attorney; Nicholas Dominguez, Interim Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion]

Nicholas Dominguez, Interim Director of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department introduced Disability Access Manager Deborah Scharven who presented the history, core services and statistics on the work provided by the Disability Access Office (DAO) over the past year. Scharven stated that the office was involved in the Unified Development Code (UDC) Amendment process, an update to Public Work's Sidewalk Transition Plan, Digital Inclusion, and Community Preparedness.

Scharven provided examples of department collaborations, staff training and educational materials.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Sandoval suggested that strides had been made with regard to people living with disabilities being included in planning efforts and asked if there were aspirational goals for this work. Scharven stated that more work was needed on goal setting and clarified the reported performance output measures. Chair Sandoval asked if the division only reviewed design plans for City funded projects. Scharven explained that all City projects and Bond

Projects were reviewed. Scharven noted the limited scope of work with private businesses under Title III was as an educator or information provider, rather than enforcer. Chair Sandoval requested metrics on how many complaints had been resolved as well as more information on the process.

Councilmember Castillo asked if the DAO provided recommendations on the UDC Amendments. Scharven confirmed that the Office provided comments on areas impacting persons with disabilities. Councilmember Castillo suggested that DAO have a role in both the Housing Bond as well as with the housing tax credit projects and asked about some of the old design guidelines for accessibility in City Projects. Scharven explained that the DAO was developing a timeline and workplan for updating the design guidelines and was working with the Neighborhood Housing Services Department.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested a comparison of Performance Measure results over time.

Chair Sandoval recommended a follow-up presentation for the Chair of the Disability Access Advisory Committee to provide information on their work. Chair Sandoval requested updated information to be put onto the website regarding the DAO and the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM.

Approved

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk