



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney Street  
Denton, Texas  
[www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com)

---

## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks and Recreation

**ACM:** Christine Taylor, Assistant City Manager

**DATE:** June 1, 2023

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the Public Art Committee's support for Original Denton District's application for the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) Arts Respond - Cultural District Project grant program.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Original Denton District (ODD) was named an official state-designated cultural arts district by the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) on September 5, 2019. With this designation, ODD is now eligible to apply for funding for projects through the TCA Arts Respond - Cultural District Project grant program. A summary of the program, including eligibility, reporting requirements, and a project narrative is provided in Exhibit 4.

Based on the grant criteria and application requirements, staff reviewed the list of future potential projects prioritized by the Public Art Committee (PAC) to see which, if any, public art or cultural district projects were eligible to be submitted for the grant. Staff concluded that the temporary art program could be continued by reviving the traffic/utility box art program started in 2019 before the pandemic.

This year, the Original Denton District will seek funding from the TCA for an ongoing series of public performances to be performed within the ODD. These public performances will be small-scale and easily deployable in public spaces. The intent is to provide Denton residents surprising encounters with artistic and culturally significant public performance as they move through our public spaces on a day to day basis. The application will seek \$12,000 in funding from the TCA to support a series of 15 – 20 performances by individuals or groups of musicians, actors, students, and other performers as they provide short performances of music, poetry, theatre, and other similar performances.

A draft letter of support from the Original Denton District Committee Chair (PAC Chair) expressing the cultural district support of the project is required as part of the grant application (Exhibit 2). Staff is working to complete the full application through the TCA online grant portal and with approval of this agenda item, will ensure the full application is submitted prior to the June 15 deadline.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the PAC provide a letter of support for the utility box/traffic box skinning art as the proposed project to TCA.

### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

If awarded, funding from Parks and Recreation Department's Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds and PARD's annual operating budget will be utilized for the grant match. (Total cost \$24,000 with \$12,000 matching grant).

**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Letter of Support

Exhibit 3- Project Narrative

Respectfully submitted:

Gary Packan

Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:

Omar Siddiqi, Mgmt. Analyst, Parks and Recreation Department