



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: February 7, 2012

Prepared By: John Carr **Phone #:** 854-4772

Director/Manager: Roger A. El Khoury, M.S., P.E., Director, FMD

Department Head: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Members: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action on request from the Art Alliance Austin to use parking lot at 3rd and Guadalupe on April 13-15, 2012.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Facilities Management Department (FMD) received a request from Meredith Powell, Executive Director of Art Alliance Austin, to use the parking lot located at 3rd and Guadalupe Street. Art Alliance Austin is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Ms. Powell is requesting use of the south half of the lot on Friday, April 13th and the full lot on Saturday April 14th and Sunday April 15th. Ms. Powell is requesting this use at no cost; however they would list Travis County as a sponsor for the Art City Austin event.

In 2011, the Commissioners Court considered a similar request from Mr. Powell. Subsequently, FMD was given direction to offer the use of the south half of the parking lot at a rate of \$750 per day. The total charge for just half of the lot would have been \$2,250 for the three day event. The Art Alliance Austin was unable or unwilling to agree to this fee and did not use the lot for their event. The operator of the parking lot then provided parking to patrons at their normally established fees and generated \$8,000 in revenue.

The parking lot is now under new management, Parking Systems of American, and is generating a guaranteed minimum of \$46,000 per month in revenue to the County.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Facilities Management Department recommends denial of the request from Art Alliance Austin to use the parking lot free of charge.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

In her letter, Ms. Powell asked for a response from Travis County by February 8, 2012 in order that they could make alternative plans if the use of the parking lot was not approved.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Approval of request for free use of the lot would result in an estimated loss of over \$8,000 in revenue.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

Ms Powell's letter, January 23, 2012

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Steve Manilla	County Executive	TNR	854-9429

CC:

Amy Draper	Financial Manager	FMD	854-9040

9520 – Facilities - 0101



art alliance austin

January 23, 2012

board of directors

Glenn Neal, Chair
State of Texas

Christie Garbe, Vice Chair
Central Health

John Fleming, Treasurer
Vision Corp

Kim Eckert, Chair Emeritus
IBM

Alicia Emr
McCombs School of Business, UT Austin

Sterling Allen
Okay Mountain

Kevin Brown
Fritz, Byrne Head & Harrison, PLLC

Carla Fraser: MPA
Dyal and Partners

Marsha Jones
HillCo Partners

Marshall Jones
Wine and Food Foundation of Texas

Lacy LaBorde
Pervasive Software

David Bodenman
Highland Resources, Inc

staff

Meredith Powell
Executive Director
mpowell@artaallianceaustin.org
512.609.8587

Allison Spector
Program Director
aspecter@artaallianceaustin.org
512.609.8591

Leya Simmons
Communications Director
lsimmons@artaallianceaustin.org
512.917.0393

office location

816 Congress Ave., Ste. 1140
Austin, TX 78701

mailing address

P.O. Box 5705
Austin, TX 78763

www.artallianceaustin.org

Mr. Roger El-Khoury
Travis County Facilities Management
1010 Lavaca Street, #400
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. El-Khoury:

Art City Austin, Austin's most prominent art festival takes place April 14-15, 2012. This downtown event features interactive community installations, educational components for youths and adults, artwork for sale, and local music and culinary treats. More than 20,000 people are expected.

Art Alliance Austin, a non-profit 501(c)(3), respectfully requests of Travis County the use of the parking lot at 4th and Guadalupe Streets, recently purchased by the County and operated by LAZ Parking. This lot has been reserved free of charge since the festival moved downtown from Laguna Gloria in 2000 (with the exception of 2011) and your consideration of continued support is very much appreciated.

Request:

In-kind use of the parking lot for patron (festival and Ballet Austin), artist and oversized vehicle parking

Dates: Friday, April 13 at 5:00a (south half)/5:00p (full lot) to Sunday, April 15 at Midnight

Considerations: Art Alliance Austin will work closely with LAZ Parking to ensure that the parking spaces used are adequately signed and blocked off and will also coordinate with the Austin Farmer's Market. In addition, insurance requirements will also be met.

If Travis County is willing to grant our request, we would list the County as a sponsor along with any other constituents you deem necessary. We hope that Travis County will join together as a partner in support of this cultural event.

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing our request. Please let me know if you need any further information. We would appreciate your response if possible by February 8, 2012 in order to make alternative plans should this lot not be available to us or the Ballet.

With gratitude,

Meredith L. Powell
Executive Director
Art Alliance Austin