

**CULTURE & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020
10:00 AM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present:	Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>Chair, District 1</i> Councilmember Jada Andrews-Sullivan, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Staff Present:	Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Debbie Racca-Sittre, <i>Director, Department of Arts & Culture</i> ; Verónica R. Soto, <i>Director, Neighborhood & Housing Services</i> ; Patrick Steck, <i>Interim Assistant Director, Department of Human Services</i> ; Richard Keith, <i>Administrator, Human Services Department</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	None

Call to Order

Chairman Treviño called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 10, 2020 Culture and Neighborhood Services Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Culture and Neighborhood Services Committee Meeting. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Chairman Treviño provided an update on a town hall meeting that took place on Saturday, February 29, 2020. He personally recognized Councilmember Courage, Council Aides from District 4, District 7 and District 9, Pete Alaniz of the San Antonio Housing Trust, and Representatives from the Departments of Human Services and Neighbor Housing Services and thanked them for attending. He added that 146 people were present to provide input to utilize in the development of a draft model for a Renter's Commission in San Antonio. He noted that 14% of the attendees were actual renters and stated that their presence spoke to the importance of a Renter's Commission. He invited comments from other Council Committee Members.

Councilmember Perry stated that he had several meetings with businesses and individuals who were opposed to the creation of a Renter's Commission. He added that he would continue to research the need for a Renter's Commission or if other alternatives were more feasible, such as having a Renter's Commission as a part of an existing Committee. He recognized the ongoing

difficulties Councilmembers have with filling vacancies within the City's current 80 Committees and voiced reluctance to create another bureaucratic organization.

2. Approval of the performing arts Strategic Plan and Funding Guidelines and request for review by full City Council. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, Department of Arts & Culture]

Debbie Racca-Sittre presented the Performing Arts Strategic Plan Process based on economic impact, best practices research, community and stakeholder work sessions, and Plan and Funding guidelines. She provided the performing arts vision statement: San Antonio is a place where performing arts thrive.

Ms. Racca-Sittre set out the following four Strategic Plan Goals which were all centered to ensure equity:

1. Create and perform a strong performing arts image:
 - Develop the story and market performing arts
 - Build cross-promotion partnerships
 - 12-24 month action items:
 - Build an accessible and dynamic information resource of performing arts organizations and activities
 - Host a marketing workshop to assist performing arts Organizations
2. Engage in performing arts collaborations:
 - Develop platforms for dialogue
 - Increase performing arts presence throughout San Antonio
 - 12-24 month action items:
 - Promote development of new venues outside of downtown
 - Foster cross-disciplinary opportunities to enhance arts programming
3. Increase and diversify performing arts revenues:
 - Implement new ticket models and funding outside of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT)
 - 12-24 month action items:
 - Ticketmaster provides \$50,000 annually
 - Dedicate 10% of city ticket revenue be allocated annually if approved by City Council through the annual budget process
 - Ask other venues to participate
 - Develop "Donate to the Arts" Program with Ticketmaster
4. Develop opportunities for accessible, affordable and diverse venues:
 - Connect performing arts organizations with venues
 - Assist with venue costs
 - 12-24 month action items:
 - Develop Fee Waive Program
 - City owned venues

- Marley Floor & Mobile Stage
- Grant Funding Programs
 - Production Cost Grants for back of house fees
 - Performing arts producing agencies or individual artists
 - Back of house, security and equipment rental costs
 - Specific to a planned event with a secured venue
 - Performing arts Venue Facility Improvements
 - Facility improvement or equipment up to \$10,000 in FY 2021
 - Currently funded performing arts producing agencies who own or have a long term lease or occupy a city building

Ms. Racca-Sittre provided a timeline for next steps and stated that grant guidelines would be presented to City Council at an “A” Session for consideration. She added that applications for the Grant Program would be due April 2, 2020 and funding recommendations would be made by the Arts Funding Committee and the San Antonio Arts Commission. She concluded by stating that all Contracts would be approved during the FY 2021 budget process with final approval by City Council at an “A” Session thereafter.

Chairman Treviño asked if the 1% allocation for public art projects was inclusive of infrastructure. Ms. Racca-Sittre replied that the 1% allocation was solely for art, not infrastructure. He asked if Alameda Theatre operating funds were included in the 1% allocation. Lori Houston replied that the Houston St. Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) had an agreement with the Alameda Theatre Conservancy to provide three years of operating funds; thereafter, the Alameda Theatre would be eligible for funds from the HOT.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan noted that the MLK Commission held productions at various City venues and had to pay back of house fees. She asked if the MLK Commission could apply for a Performing Arts Production Costs Grant for other city venues or events. Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that the guidelines allowed for only performing arts producing organizations or individual artists to apply and that the grants were not specific to City-owned venues only.

Councilmember Perry asked if the \$50,000 received annually from Ticketmaster could only be dedicated specifically to arts and entertainment. Ms. Racca-Sittre confirmed that it was. Councilmember Perry asked of the amount for 10% of City ticket revenue. Ms. Racca-Sittre replied that \$2,000,000 in total revenue was projected for Ticketmaster revenues and that \$200,000 would be the projected amount allocated for performing arts Grants and would be presented for approval during the City’s annual budget session. Ms. Houston added that the City had specifically stated in its guidelines that any artwork must be appropriate for general audience view and the City has the right to remove or display any artwork at its discretion, as such art was City funded.

3. Staff briefing regarding Status of Poverty Report recommendation related to enhancing the safety-net for low-income families. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Patrick Steck reported that the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2018 American Community Survey one-year estimated data which ranked San Antonio as having the highest poverty rate

among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. He stated that the Department of Human Services and Metro Health collaborated to develop the Status of Poverty Report (SPR) which was released in December 2019 as follows:

Overview of Poverty in San Antonio:

- Nearly 20% of San Antonio residents live in poverty
- Poverty rate higher for Hispanics and African Americans
- 54% of San Antonio households living in poverty were female
- A higher percentage of San Antonio residents were women, compared to Texas and the US
- The City invests approximately \$454 million to reduce barriers to socioeconomic mobility

Overview of Poverty: Educational Attainment in San Antonio:

- 18% of San Antonio residents do not have a high school diploma
- Only 16% of Hispanics and 25% of African Americans in Bexar County have a Bachelor's Degree
- Lower average educational attainment in the west, south and east areas of the City of San Antonio

Overview of Poverty: Employment and Income:

- Over 25% of workers in the San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA have occupations with median wages less than \$25,000
- Median household income in San Antonio is lower, and poverty rates higher, than in Bexar County, Texas and the U.S.

Overview of Poverty: Affordable Housing in San Antonio:

- 91% of low-income renters in San Antonio are cost-burdened*
 - 70% of low-income homeowners are cost-burdened*
 - 70% of African American residents and 62% of Hispanics are renters
- *Defined as spending more than 30% of income on housing*

Overview of Poverty: Wealth, Assets, and Financial Health in San Antonio:

- San Antonians have low median credit scores, high delinquent debt and limited savings
- Median credit score of residents in predominately non-White zip codes is lower (615) than in predominately white zip codes (721)
- 35% of predominately non-white zip codes have medical debt in collection status, compared to 18% of predominately white zip codes
- The medical debt gap between whites and non-whites is larger in Bexar County than in Texas and the U.S. overall

Overview of Poverty: Housing investments in San Antonio - \$29.5 million:

Local:

- Lead Hazard Reduction: \$450,000
- Minor Repair: \$1.43 million
- Home Rehabilitation: \$2 million
- Risk Mitigation: \$1 million
- Under One Roof Program: \$5.3 million
- Other: \$430,000

Federal:

- Community Development: \$12.5 million
- Home Investment: \$5.1 million
- Lead Hazard Reduction: \$970,000
- Other: \$30,000

Other Source(s):

- \$250,000

Overview of Poverty: Homelessness in San Antonio:

- 6% reduction in overall homelessness
- 12% reduction in unsheltered homelessness from 2018 to 2019
- 28% decrease in number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
- 18% increase in homeless families

Overview of Poverty: Affordable Housing in San Antonio: \$29.3 million:

- Community Development: \$12.5 million
- Home Investment: \$5.1 million
- Lead Hazard Reduction: \$1.42 million
- Minor Repair: \$1.43 million
- Home Rehabilitation: \$2.0 million
- Risk Mitigation: \$1 million
- Under One Roof Program: \$5.3 million
- Other: \$.71 million

Overview of Poverty: Homelessness Investment in San Antonio: \$36.1 million:

- Haven for Hope & Campus Partners: \$10.5 million
- SAPD Mental Health Unit: \$9.2 million
- SAPD Downtown Bike Patrol: \$4.2 million
- SAFD Fire Engine Costs: \$2.9 million
- SAFD EMS Calls: \$2.5 million
- Other: \$6.8 million

Mr. Steck stated that the SPR included fifteen recommendations across five categories which were focused on equity:

- Focus on highest need geographies and populations
- Foster integration of asset-building and social safety net services
- Enhance safety-net for low-income families
- Expand access to products and services that support asset-building and preservation
- Offer organizational support to non-profits to enhance long-term viability and outcomes

Mr. Steck provided the recommendation specifically proposed for oversight by the Culture and Neighborhood Services Committee (CNS) and the specific proposed charge for the Committee with areas to address to ensure fair outcomes for residents:

- Enhance Safety-Net for Low-Income Families:
 - Invest in legal services for debt collection and eviction cases to ensure fair outcomes for low-income San Antonio families:
 - Enhance resolution of debt collection cases through Financial Empowerment Centers by expanding legal services referral capacity
 - Evaluate FY 2020 pilot program to provide legal services to assist with eviction cases, expanding if warranted.

Mr. Steck stated that staff would brief the other City Council Committees and partner agencies and conduct a SASpeakUp Survey with emphasis on outreach to low-income residents. He concluded by noting that final recommendations would be presented to City Council at a B session in April 2020.

Chairman Treviño requested that the \$100,000 in funding that was to be set aside for the implementation of the SPR recommendations be marked for reserve to allow for expansion of the program prior to the City's Budget Session in July. He emphasized the need to channel funds directly to residents to help their current situations.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked what cost-burdened alleviation measures could be taken for poverty stricken areas by zip code. Ms. Houston stated that the City was in the process of creating a housing implementation plan that would be presented to the Committee for approval in June 2020 and thereafter to City Council for adoption. Ms. Houston stated that the San Antonio Housing Trust, the San Antonio Housing Authority, and San Antonio Regional Alliance for the Homeless would also adopt this unified housing policy. Ms. Houston added that a small focus group will be formed with the San Antonio Board of Realtors and the San Antonio Apartment Association to discuss additional affordable housing units in their stock.

Councilmember Perry noted that the City invested \$454 million to reduce barriers to socioeconomic mobility and asked how much more in funding would be recommended to reduce the percentage of City's population living in poverty. He requested an itemized breakdown of the \$454 million and asked of the funding source(s). Mr. Steck stated he would provide an itemized breakdown and replied that funding comes from Federal and State grants, and the City's general fund budget. Councilmember Perry requested that homeless funding received from any outside sources be added to the SPR.

4. Overview and discussion on draft Culture and Neighborhood Services Council Committee Dashboard [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager]

Ms. Houston presented the information provided on the CNS Dashboard report and requested feedback from Committee members.

Councilmember Perry requested that interactive hyperlinks be added to the online Dashboard so that readers could immediately be directed to further referenced data located elsewhere on the internet.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan voiced concern that no events were displayed for District 2 Seniors. Ms. Houston stated that only non-routine items were included in the Dashboard, but that routine events for each District could be added as a regular item on the Dashboard.

5. Discussion on future agenda items for the Culture and Neighborhood Services Council Committee and closing remarks

Office of Historic Preservation - Deconstructive initiatives
Neighborhood lighting - City-wide initiatives

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Roberto Treviño, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

***Nancy Cano
Office of the City Clerk***