

Council Member Alter Motion 2

Motion Sheet

I move to amend the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 City of Austin Fee schedule by adjusting the following:

Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment - General Fund	2025-2026 Amended Fee	2026-2027 Proposed Fee	Percent Change
Sound Impact Evaluation Fee (Temporary or Special Events)	\$677.29	\$677.29	0%
		Tier 1: \$100	-85%
		Tier 2: \$200	-70%
		Tier 3: \$677.29	0%
		Tier 4: \$677.29	0%

Rationale:

The sound impact evaluation fee for temporary events is currently set as a single rate for events of all sizes and levels of complexity. Low-impact, small-scale activities, sometimes require amplified sound and the high cost of permitting may lead event producers to avoid filing for a permit, avoid using live musicians in their events, or reduce the amount of funding available to pay live musicians a living wage.

The Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment (ACME) Department sets many of its special event fees based on a tier structure where Tier 1 events are low-impact, ranging up to Tier 4 with a city-wide impact. This amendment uses the same event tier structure and sets a fee that compensates the department but is designed to encourage compliance by smaller events.

ACME recently added a Financial Manager II and is recruiting an Accountant II. These members of the department plan to conduct a comprehensive review of its fee-for-service model, including the sound permit fee structure, and develop recommendations for consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 2027-2028 budget cycle.