

## **RE: Arts Commission Support for Creative Combining District and Development Bonus Program and Place-Based Enhancement Program**

The Arts Commission supports adoption of EDD's Creative Combining District and Development Bonus Program and for the Place-Based Enhancement Program. Commissioners expressed support for the Creative Districts program at its regular meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Agenda Item 12) and for the Place-Based Enhancement program (Agenda Item 8) on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Both programs were also presented and workshopped for feedback with the Joint Arts and Music Commission Land Use working group over the course of several months in 2023 and 2024.

The Arts Commission regularly hears from members of the arts and cultural community that the availability and cost of creative space has become prohibitively expensive for small and medium-sized arts organizations (see for one example the [presentation by dance and theatre artists from the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting](#)).

Both proposed programs are intended to incentivize the creation or preservation of affordable creative spaces – they are tools to help meet the urgent needs for affordability for small businesses and independent creators in this city. Arts and music in Austin not only provide the basis of our place-identity, they are also a key driver of the tourism economy and a core factor in residents' quality of life. It is therefore critical that the City prioritize the creation of tools and investment strategies to support the health of our local creative and cultural economy.