

Webinar

Austin Economic Development Corporation: Cultural Trust

Date: January 26, 2022

00:00:00> 00:00:05:	Hello everybody, I think everybody can hear me pretty well.
00:00:05> 00:00:09:	My name is Carl Settles and I'm the founder and
00:00:09> 00:00:13:	executive director of a local nonprofit here called E For
00:00:13> 00:00:17:	Youth and we focus on Creative Workforce development.
00:00:17> 00:00:22:	Essentially, we pay train and pay college age youth to
00:00:22> 00:00:28:	collect oral histories of bipac people throughout this area and
00:00:28> 00:00:31:	implement them into a location based,
00:00:31> 00:00:37:	immersive storytelling platform called the E 4 Virtual Archive,
00:00:37> 00:00:40:	among other things, and I think that's the I guess
00:00:40> 00:00:44:	the thing that's most related to what we're doing here
00:00:44> 00:00:44:	today.
00:00:44> 00:00:49:	So I was appointed as a representative of the Arts
00:00:49> 00:00:53:	Commission here at at the City of Austin,
00:00:53> 00:00:59:	and really my charge is to ensure that we have
00:00:59> 00:01:04:	equity in the process in terms of the the the
00:01:04> 00:01:05:	EDC,
00:01:05> 00:01:12:	as well as really fight for creative space throughout the
00:01:12> 00:01:12:	city.
00:01:12> 00:01:12:	So I'm going to leave it there.
00:01:12> 00:01:20:	And I'm gonna let the other folks to introduce themselves
00:01:20> 00:01:20:	and.
00:01:20> 00:01:23:	I guess we'll go in in order that that we're
00:01:23> 00:01:24:	seated here.
00:01:23> 00:01:24:	
	So Katie. Mike, turn on.
00:01:29> 00:01:29:	It's working.
00:01:35> 00:01:40:	Thank you. Hi my name is Katie Dixon.
00:01:40> 00:01:42:	I am here from Brooklyn,
00:01:42> 00:01:45:	NY. I've been working at the intersection of real estate
00:01:45> 00:01:48:	and arts for a little over 15 years in New

00:01:48> 00:01:51:	York City and have known Ann for a long time,
00:01:51> 00:01:54:	so I think I'm here to give you an an
00:01:54> 00:01:55:	outsider's perspective.
00:01:55> 00:01:58:	A little a little bit of what I've learned in
00:01:58> 00:01:59:	my work in New York.
00:01:59> 00:02:03:	I have worked in government and in the private sector
00:02:03> 00:02:06:	and as well in a public private partnership.
00:02:06> 00:02:11:	Developing the Brooklyn Cultural District about 10 years ago,
00:02:11> 00:02:14:	that now has really kind of come into full fruition
00:02:14> 00:02:17:	in Brooklyn and most recently was running a new not
00:02:17> 00:02:21:	for profit redeveloping former power station in the Gwanas area
00:02:21> 00:02:24:	of Brooklyn, and I also worked at the city at
00:02:24> 00:02:27:	the Department of Cultural Affairs for a couple of years,
00:02:27> 00:02:32:	managing. The city has about 400 different cultural capital projects
00:02:32> 00:02:34:	at any given time,
00:02:34> 00:02:36:	and so I was involved in almost all of them
00:02:36> 00:02:38:	at some point in time,
00:02:38> 00:02:40:	so I'm excited to be here and learn more about
00:02:40> 00:02:41:	what what you have going on here
00:02:41> 00:02:43:	in Austin. Good
00:02:43> 00:02:46:	morning, I'm Corey Baker. I am the CEO of the
00:02:46> 00:02:46:	long center.
00:02:46> 00:02:48:	I've been there about 6 years now.
00:02:48> 00:02:52:	The long Center is a private nonprofit and part of
00:02:52> 00:02:56:	our mission is to manage one of the largest arts
00:02:56> 00:02:57:	campuses in the city.
00:02:57> 00:03:00:	Prior to that I was with an organization called Scottsdale
00:03:00> 00:03:02:	Arts that was actually
00:03:02> 00:03:03:	a nonprofit that was contracted
00:03:03> 00:03:04:	by the city of Scottsdale,
00:03:04> 00:03:09:	AZ to run its major arts facilities and grants programs
00:03:09> 00:03:11:	and other cultural activities.
00:03:11> 00:03:12:	Thanks for having me.
00:03:14> 00:03:16:	Hey good morning my name is John Reedy.
00:03:16> 00:03:19:	I'm the CEO of Austin Creative Alliance which is a
00:03:19> 00:03:22:	46 year old art services and advocacy organization.
00:03:22> 00:03:25:	We have about 600 members across disciplines,
00:03:25> 00:03:28:	so musicians to visual artists to theater artists.
00:03:28> 00:03:32:	Me personally I moved here in 1988 to attend film
00:03:32> 00:03:36:	school at Utah and my entire career has been in
00:03:36> 00:03:39:	the local arts and then in 2014 I took this

00:03:39> 00:03:40:	position.
00:03:44> 00:03:48:	Hello OK good morning. My name is Ann Haynes and
00:03:48> 00:03:49:	I am the CXO,
00:03:49> 00:03:52:	chief transaction officer of the Austin Economic Development Corporation.
00:03:52> 00:03:54:	I'm super excited to be here,
00:03:54> 00:03:57:	I've been. I'm new to Austin within four months,
00:03:57> 00:04:00:	but I've been working in real estate architecture,
00:04:00> 00:04:03:	economic and community development for over 25 years and I'm
00:04:03> 00:04:07:	certainly trying to bring some of my background starting as
00:04:07> 00:04:07:	an architect,
00:04:07> 00:04:10:	designing, performing arts and culture spaces,
00:04:10> 00:04:12:	then to real estate here.
00:04:12> 00:04:15:	In Austin, which is maybe it is really the hottest
00:04:15> 00:04:18:	market I've ever worked really to bring that that together
00:04:18> 00:04:20:	and what we're talking about today,
00:04:20> 00:04:22:	which is the cultural trust.
00:04:22> 00:04:25:	But more importantly, the Austin Economic Development Corporation as a
00:04:25> 00:04:26:	quasi public agency.
00:04:26> 00:04:27:	I've worked in five cities.
00:04:27> 00:04:30:	Now this is my fifth in a quasi public role,
00:04:30> 00:04:33:	really working in partnership with the development community,
00:04:33> 00:04:35:	so I'm excited to talk to y'all about that today.
00:04:36> 00:04:41:	Awesome so to get this thing started.
00:04:41> 00:04:44:	I guess I want to give you a personal anecdote,
00:04:44> 00:04:48:	and the idea of culture.
00:04:48> 00:04:50:	So I came here. Well,
00:04:50> 00:04:53:	first of all, my dad went to Graduate School here
00:04:53> 00:04:54:	in the 70s.
00:04:54> 00:04:57:	He got his PhD at the University of Texas,
00:04:57> 00:05:01:	but I came here in the 80s.
00:05:01> 00:05:04:	To go to college and I actually have a music
00:05:04> 00:05:06:	degree and I was a professional musician.
00:05:06> 00:05:11:	Knew these streets pretty darn well in a previous life.
00:05:11> 00:05:13:	Not doing that so much anymore,
00:05:13> 00:05:18:	but when I came to Austin in the 80s to
00:05:18> 00:05:20:	to go to school.
00:05:20> 00:05:22:	Back then I wanted to be Prince and I I
00:05:22> 00:05:22:	just.
00:05:24> 00:05:29:	Just just saying, just saying course I didn't work well

00:05:29> 00:05:32:	and heels and you know all that stuff but I
00:05:32> 00:05:34:	guess what I'm saying is,
00:05:34> 00:05:41:	is that the roots of American culture are rooted in
00:05:41> 00:05:42:	the Blues?
00:05:42> 00:05:46:	Jazz. And let's face it,
00:05:46> 00:05:55:	that's black music. And. Austin is rooted in the Blues.
00:05:55> 00:06:00:	And culture. And yet Austin and this is well before
00:06:01> 00:06:06:	we started this most recent rush has been losing black
00:06:07> 00:06:09:	people for 20 years.
00:06:09> 00:06:10:	It's the only, it's the fat.
00:06:10> 00:06:15:	It's the only fast growing city in America that continues
00:06:15> 00:06:18:	to lose the black population.
00:06:18> 00:06:22:	And. Part of Austin has this weird thing is that
00:06:22> 00:06:26:	it's supposed to be this blue dot.
00:06:26> 00:06:32:	In this Red Sea, but that's kind of a veneer.
00:06:32> 00:06:37:	If you will. And. What we?
00:06:37> 00:06:41:	Are really reaching and and some people would argue that
00:06:41> 00:06:44:	we've already gone past that tipping point.
00:06:44> 00:06:49:	Is that this city is inhospitable?
00:06:49> 00:06:52:	Two people of color in particular.
00:06:52> 00:06:54:	And if you look at.
00:06:56> 00:06:59:	I guess the the history of this city,
00:06:59> 00:07:01:	the hottest real estate in Austin,
00:07:01> 00:07:05:	is where? It's east of I35 and I think it's
00:07:05> 00:07:09:	really important to start to understand the history of Austin.
00:07:09> 00:07:14:	In 1928, the City Council actually commissioned a firm to
00:07:14> 00:07:18:	come into Austin and figure out what they were going
00:07:18> 00:07:20:	to do with black folks,
00:07:20> 00:07:25:	and also because all of downtown Austin was Black Austin.
00:07:25> 00:07:28:	OK, and So what they said is hey,
00:07:28> 00:07:31:	East Avenue so I-35 where I 35 is it that
00:07:32> 00:07:32:	way?
00:07:32> 00:07:35:	I'm not sure where I 35 is right now that
00:07:36> 00:07:39:	used to be East Avenue and it it was flat.
00:07:39> 00:07:42:	OK, and what they said is and this was in
00:07:42> 00:07:45:	the in the housing code.
00:07:45> 00:07:48:	If you're black and you wanna build a house and
00:07:48> 00:07:51:	if you don't put it on the east side of
00:07:51> 00:07:53:	east of that street,
00:07:53> 00:07:57:	then we're not going to pave your roads.
00:07:57> 00:07:59:	We're not gonna give you electricity.
00:07:59> 00:08:04:	We're not gonna provide any basic services for you unless

00:08:04> 00:08:05:	you live over there.
00:08:05> 00:08:10:	And so there's a chronic underinvestment that has been
	happening
00:08:10> 00:08:11:	for a long,
00:08:11> 00:08:14:	long time. Folks that benefit benefit.
00:08:14> 00:08:17:	We didn't get the benefit from the GI Bill.
00:08:17> 00:08:24:	And be able to buy houses and build generational wealth.
00:08:25> 00:08:29:	OK, so this. Problem has been going on for such
00:08:29> 00:08:31:	a long time.
00:08:31> 00:08:34:	And if you think about what have been the economic
00:08:34> 00:08:35:	drivers,
00:08:35> 00:08:37:	why Austin is so? People want to come to Austin?
00:08:37> 00:08:42:	'cause it's cool? Right? Think about what also would be
00:08:42> 00:08:46:	like if there was no South by Southwest.
00:08:46> 00:08:49:	'cause all these tech companies here.
00:08:49> 00:08:52:	They came here because of South by Southwest and South
00:08:52> 00:08:53:	by Southwest.
00:08:53> 00:08:57:	The bedrock of it was formed on music.
00:08:57> 00:09:00:	And that goes back to the Blues.
00:09:00> 00:09:04:	So. We are at a tipping point.
00:09:04> 00:09:09:	Where are we gonna really fully acknowledge this history?
00:09:09> 00:09:13:	And see, we know that we can't undo the past.
00:09:13> 00:09:16:	We can't UN gentrify Austin,
00:09:17> 00:09:22:	but how can we move forward into the future?
00:09:22> 00:09:25:	In a more equitable way.
00:09:25> 00:09:31:	And I think that's ultimately what this conversation is about.
00:09:31> 00:09:35:	lt's not about. Making people feel guilty.
00:09:35> 00:09:38:	Or, you know, there's plenty plenty of blame and responsibility
00:09:38> 00:09:39:	to go around.
00:09:39> 00:09:42:	But how do we start to move forward?
00:09:42> 00:09:44:	And when you start to understand that history,
00:09:44> 00:09:48:	then it's very easy to understand the level of distrust.
00:09:48> 00:09:52:	That there is in the Community and in the arts
00:09:52> 00:09:54:	community in general.
00:09:54> 00:09:58:	And so I wanted to at least lay that out.
00:09:58> 00:10:03:	So that. You all just have some broader context for
00:10:03> 00:10:04:	this conversation.
00:10:04> 00:10:08:	So let's get to our panel.
00:10:08> 00:10:12:	Uhm so. John, you played a large role with the
00:10:12> 00:10:18:	Creative Alliance and really forwarding this conversation about a creative
00:10:18> 00:10:23:	space in Austin so can can you talk about that

00:10:23> 00:10:25:	history and kind of how?
00:10:25> 00:10:27:	How do we get? How did we get here where
00:10:27> 00:10:31:	we have now the establishment of the ADC and in
00:10:31> 00:10:32:	the cultural trust?
00:10:32> 00:10:36:	I mean, this has been a 20 year conversation.
00:10:36> 00:10:38:	The cultural industries. If you want to call them that,
00:10:38> 00:10:40:	the music scene, the live art scene,
00:10:40> 00:10:43:	the the visual arts scene have been talking about the
00:10:43> 00:10:44:	loss of space,
00:10:44> 00:10:47:	the affordability of space since the 90s,
00:10:47> 00:10:49:	sincethe.com boom and then bust.
00:10:49> 00:10:51:	But unfortunately, when bus happened,
00:10:51> 00:10:53:	Austin doesn't really go along.
00:10:53> 00:10:56:	Rents keep going up right and that's good for you
00:10:56> 00:10:56:	guys,
00:10:56> 00:10:59:	but hasn't been great for artists and musicians.
00:10:59> 00:11:02:	And so we started talking about it in.
00:11:02> 00:11:05:	Really, I started thinking about it and talking about it
00:11:05> 00:11:07:	with peers around 2003.
00:11:07> 00:11:12:	And then. Really, the goal in the conversation remains.
00:11:12> 00:11:14:	Let's not become San Francisco.
00:11:14> 00:11:16:	You know where the culture just got pushed out,
00:11:16> 00:11:19:	and it was only affordable to certain people.
00:11:19> 00:11:21:	And it really became a bifurcated society at the very
00:11:21> 00:11:24:	poor and the very wealthy in San Francisco.
00:11:24> 00:11:26:	And we don't want to see that here because musicians
00:11:26> 00:11:28:	want to be in that middle ground.
00:11:28> 00:11:30:	And we are in economic drivers,
00:11:30> 00:11:34:	so I think unless we want to be a monocultural
00:11:34> 00:11:36:	economy and society,
00:11:36> 00:11:39:	we need to make sure that artists and musicians can
00:11:39> 00:11:41:	live here and can work here.
00:11:41> 00:11:44:	And the key to that is affordable space.
00:11:44> 00:11:46:	And so it's been a 10 year effort to get
00:11:46> 00:11:48:	to where we are today.
00:11:48> 00:11:51:	In 2012 a group out of Minneapolis called Art Space,
00:11:51> 00:11:55:	which is the largest nonprofit real estate developer and holding
00:11:55> 00:11:56:	company in the US,
00:11:56> 00:11:59:	came down here. And did a survey.
00:11:59> 00:12:02:	Did a market assessment and they said you're about to
00:12:02> 00:12:05:	face a massacre of creative space and certainly over the

00:12:05> 00:12:06:	next five years.
00:12:06> 00:12:10:	We lost literally dozens of studio complexes on the east
00:12:11> 00:12:11:	side.
00:12:11> 00:12:14:	Theaters on the east side musicians,
00:12:14> 00:12:16:	rehearsal studios all over town.
00:12:16> 00:12:19:	They're just gone and we haven't replaced them quite yet.
00:12:19> 00:12:22:	And so in response to the art space report and
00:12:22> 00:12:23:	community concerns.
00:12:23> 00:12:25:	When I took this position in 2014,
00:12:25> 00:12:28:	I just started researching solutions all over the country.
00:12:28> 00:12:31:	I went up to art space of Minneapolis personally,
00:12:31> 00:12:32:	hung out with those folks,
00:12:32> 00:12:35:	and learned their model. There's a thing called the Baltimore
00:12:35> 00:12:36:	Arts Realty Company.
00:12:36> 00:12:38:	I went to Baltimore, spent time with them.
00:12:38> 00:12:40:	I studied the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust,
00:12:40> 00:12:41:	which is a great model.
00:12:41> 00:12:46:	I think that. Corey will probably talk about some more
00:12:46> 00:12:47:	today and then.
00:12:47> 00:12:50:	Maybe the gold standard? The thing that really inspired me
00:12:50> 00:12:53:	was something called the real rain in real estate art
00:12:53> 00:12:53:	strategy.
00:12:53> 00:12:56:	That's the rain and Kenneth Rainin Foundation in the Bay
00:12:56> 00:12:56:	Area,
00:12:56> 00:13:01:	and that their strategy sparks something called the Culture community.
00:13:01> 00:13:04:	Art stabilization trust in San Francisco and off of that
00:13:04> 00:13:04:	model,
00:13:04> 00:13:08:	mostly in 2016, Austin Creative Alliance proposed,
00:13:08> 00:13:11:	and Austin Cultural Trust, which would be a nonprofit real
00:13:11> 00:13:13:	estate holding company and developer.
00:13:13> 00:13:16:	A partner for you guys to include creative space in
00:13:17> 00:13:18:	your mixed use developments.
00:13:18> 00:13:22:	Potentially, and then we advocated for funding for it and
00:13:22> 00:13:26:	the creative spaces bond at \$12 million was passed in
00:13:26> 00:13:26:	2018.
00:13:26> 00:13:31:	We advocated for the ADC and including the cultural trust
00:13:31> 00:13:34:	within the Adcs portfolio of projects.
00:13:34> 00:13:37:	And then we advocated in 2020 for the iconic venue
00:13:37> 00:13:38:	fund.
00:13:38> 00:13:41:	So every step of the way we propose a solution,
00:13:41> 00:13:43:	we advocated for how to fund it,

00:13:43> 00:13:47:	and we carried through engaging the community to build consensus.
00:13:47> 00:13:49:	But I have to say.
00:13:49> 00:13:51:	None of where we are now would have taken place.
00:13:51> 00:13:54:	We wouldn't be here where we are now without the
00:13:54> 00:13:57:	hard work and dedication of Council members and kitchen and
00:13:57> 00:13:58:	Council member Kathie Tovo,
00:13:58> 00:14:00:	who's here with us this morning.
00:14:00> 00:14:01:	So I really want to thank them.
00:14:01> 00:14:03:	And I want to thank in my advocacy work,
00:14:03> 00:14:05:	my board chair and Vice chair who are also here.
00:14:05> 00:14:08:	That's Dewey Brooks and Ramos ulit.
00:14:08> 00:14:11:	There were a lot of people involved in getting us
00:14:11> 00:14:12:	to where we are now,
00:14:12> 00:14:14:	but that's the history of it.
00:14:14> 00:14:21:	Great, so we're here now and you're our chief transaction
00:14:21> 00:14:22:	officer.
00:14:22> 00:14:25:	You were you our first employee.
00:14:25> 00:14:30:	Yeah, our first employee. Can you tell us some about
00:14:30> 00:14:33:	the cultural trust and how?
00:14:33> 00:14:37:	How is this approach different from what's what's been done
00:14:37> 00:14:38:	in other cities?
00:14:40> 00:14:42:	Gonna do one minute I'm gonna try and do it
00:14:42> 00:14:45:	in one minute on the Austin Economic Development Corporation,
00:14:45> 00:14:47:	just in case all people in the in the room
00:14:47> 00:14:48:	in the audience don't know.
00:14:48> 00:14:50:	And I do want to.
00:14:50> 00:14:52:	I was the first employee official higher.
00:14:52> 00:14:55:	I am joined by our interim CEO in the back,
00:14:55> 00:14:58:	David Colligan, who's actually been working full time on the
00:14:58> 00:15:01:	organization for about the past year or so.
00:15:01> 00:15:04:	And again, I'm standing on the shoulders of many people
00:15:04> 00:15:07:	who've gotten both the cultural trust and also in Economic
00:15:07> 00:15:09:	Development Corporation to this point.
00:15:09> 00:15:10:	And as you heard from my career.
00:15:10> 00:15:13:	We've been focused on implementation and sort of moving something
00:15:13> 00:15:15:	forward so we're really excited.
00:15:15> 00:15:17:	We are local government corporation,
00:15:17> 00:15:20:	really contracted by the city on behalf of the city,
00:15:20> 00:15:23:	and it was founded with the idea that with the

00:15:23> 00:15:27:	rising real estate prices with the sort of development pace
00:15:27> 00:15:30:	that was going on figuring out the sort of quasi
00:15:30> 00:15:33:	public partner that could really meet the equity and public
00:15:33> 00:15:34:	benefit goals,
00:15:34> 00:15:37:	but also moving a little bit more closely to the
00:15:37> 00:15:37:	speed of the market,
00:15:37> 00:15:39:	so effectively, that is our role,
00:15:39> 00:15:42:	we will have multiple different types of projects,
00:15:42> 00:15:45:	whether it's facilitating. Specific land use transactions on behalf of
00:15:45> 00:15:47:	the city or managing programs,
00:15:47> 00:15:48:	such as the Cultural Trust.
00:15:48> 00:15:51:	So really we've got four projects in our our current
00:15:51> 00:15:54:	pipeline and can talk about that in more detail,
00:15:54> 00:15:58:	but really looking forward to partnering with the development community
00:15:58> 00:15:59:	as we move forward.
00:15:59> 00:16:02:	That's a DC. Was that minute I I think I'm
00:16:02> 00:16:05:	trying so and there's a twenty person board,
00:16:05> 00:16:08:	including as you heard, Carl settles who's here as well
00:16:08> 00:16:10:	as David Steinwedell,
00:16:10> 00:16:11:	who many of you know.
00:16:11> 00:16:13:	Importantly, the board was selected to represent.
00:16:13> 00:16:15:	All aspects of the economy,
00:16:15> 00:16:19:	from arts, music, culture through some of the downtown business
00:16:19> 00:16:22:	organizations as well as the Chamber.
00:16:22> 00:16:24:	So we do have a great spectrum on that board.
00:16:24> 00:16:26:	Very thoughtful, so the cultural trust.
00:16:26> 00:16:29:	One of the things that I was first of all
00:16:29> 00:16:32:	super excited about this position simply because it is a
00:16:32> 00:16:34:	bit full circle in my career to be able to
00:16:34> 00:16:37:	work on cultural arts, music and the DNA of the
00:16:37> 00:16:41:	city while also trying to build an organization from scratch.
00:16:41> 00:16:44:	This is actually my third startup quasi public government.
00:16:44> 00:16:48:	Corporation, but this one is really poised for great work.
00:16:48> 00:16:50:	The cultural trust in this particular case,
00:16:50> 00:16:53:	John mentioned a couple of the OR a couple of
00:16:53> 00:16:56:	precedents that were key to forming this cultural trust,
00:16:56> 00:16:59:	and they really ranged in the country on how they
00:16:59> 00:17:03:	approach particular market conditions and where the money comes from.
00:17:03> 00:17:06:	That's how the how different cultural trusts are defined.

00:17:06> 00:17:09:	Each one is completely independent and very unique,
00:17:09> 00:17:12:	although we can certainly draw lessons from each one of
00:17:12> 00:17:12:	them,
00:17:12> 00:17:15:	they're the cast, which is the.
00:17:15> 00:17:19:	Community Arts Stabilization Trust really works with federal dollars.
00:17:19> 00:17:22:	Actually, mostly new market tax credits and other CDF.
00:17:22> 00:17:25:	I sources to acquire buildings and that is really in
00:17:25> 00:17:28:	a hot market trying to stabilize some of the arts
00:17:28> 00:17:32:	and community development activities in a space like Pittsburgh.
00:17:32> 00:17:35:	It's a weak market and it was really an anchoring
00:17:35> 00:17:38:	concept on how to revitalize a part of the city
00:17:38> 00:17:40:	that had been forlorn for a long time.
00:17:40> 00:17:43:	So really it can bridge between those two different things.
00:17:43> 00:17:47:	Providence RI has not an official cultural trust,
00:17:47> 00:17:49:	but a series of. Assets that were built out by
00:17:49> 00:17:51:	an artist and artist entrepreneur,
00:17:51> 00:17:55:	his community, and ultimately a wealthy landowner that was able
00:17:55> 00:17:59:	to invest and support and stabilize that piece of downtown
00:17:59> 00:18:00:	Providence.
00:18:00> 00:18:02:	So it really runs the gamut in this case,
00:18:02> 00:18:05:	what I think is really distinctive and actually really,
00:18:05> 00:18:09:	distinctively Austin. It's leading with public dollars based on all
00:18:09> 00:18:12:	the advocacy work which is based on what the creative
00:18:12> 00:18:14:	economy was asking for.
00:18:14> 00:18:17:	But really, the city of Austin putting public dollars first
00:18:17> 00:18:19:	and foremost to effectively anchor this.
00:18:19> 00:18:23:	Of this program, which is really exciting,
00:18:23> 00:18:25:	it's also because it's public dollars.
00:18:25> 00:18:29:	It doesn't always directly bullseye meet with the needs of
00:18:29> 00:18:30:	the creative community,
00:18:30> 00:18:32:	and that's one of the things that we're going to
00:18:32> 00:18:33:	be working out through this program.
00:18:33> 00:18:35:	But by starting with public dollars,
00:18:35> 00:18:38:	I'm a strong believer in leveraging that and really building
00:18:38> 00:18:40:	a toolkit of additional resources.
00:18:40> 00:18:43:	You know, public and private resources that then can build
00:18:43> 00:18:46:	out what a cultural trust I think is meant to
00:18:46> 00:18:47:	be in the city.
00:18:47> 00:18:48:	So is that

00:18:48> 00:18:51:	awesome? Yeah, that's great. Next,
00:18:51> 00:18:56:	Corey once you talk about your experience with the long
00:18:56> 00:18:58:	center and your vision.
00:18:58> 00:19:01:	Of how we want to be able to move forward
00:19:01> 00:19:05:	in a much more efficient way with this new structure.
00:19:05> 00:19:08:	Thank you. I think I'm here because I have for
00:19:08> 00:19:09:	the long center.
00:19:09> 00:19:12:	We're both an example of how a city owned facility
00:19:12> 00:19:16:	has worked with nonprofits in the past and moving forward,
00:19:16> 00:19:18:	working with an and the vision of the cultural trust.
00:19:18> 00:19:22:	How we can also be a service provider and industry
00:19:22> 00:19:25:	expert that partners with the real estate side and and
00:19:25> 00:19:27:	once you have the buildings,
00:19:27> 00:19:28:	how do you use them?
00:19:28> 00:19:31:	How do you manage? I'm going forward first of all,
00:19:31> 00:19:34:	how many of y'all have been to the long center?
00:19:34> 00:19:36:	OK, that makes me very happy.
00:19:36> 00:19:39:	So real quick history 'cause I think it's it's important
00:19:39> 00:19:42:	to think about what what happened before the cultural trust,
00:19:42> 00:19:46:	the IT used to be the Palmer Municipal Auditorium that
00:19:46> 00:19:47:	goes way back to the 50s.
00:19:47> 00:19:50:	So it's always been an iconic location for Austin.
00:19:50> 00:19:52:	It was actually where JFK was heading from Dallas.
00:19:52> 00:19:54:	It was set to receive him.
00:19:54> 00:19:57:	So a lot of wonderful history there and then.
00:19:57> 00:20:01:	In 1999 there was a public election to change it
00:20:01> 00:20:03:	to a Performing Arts Center.
00:20:03> 00:20:04:	It was really kind of in disrepair,
00:20:04> 00:20:07:	and they. They want to recreate it as a Performing
00:20:07> 00:20:11:	Arts Center and the driver of that was really the
00:20:11> 00:20:13:	Opera Symphony Ballet in this in town,
00:20:13> 00:20:15:	we're looking for a permanent home,
00:20:15> 00:20:19:	and so there was over \$80 million raised privately to
00:20:19> 00:20:22:	transform into the long center and but it is a
00:20:22> 00:20:23:	city owned facility,
00:20:23> 00:20:26:	so it was handed over to the city and part
00:20:27> 00:20:29:	of the facilities for the city owned.
00:20:29> 00:20:33:	So when that happened, when we opened you know there
00:20:33> 00:20:34:	was as a private nonprofit.
00:20:34> 00:20:37:	There was the founding resident companies.
00:20:37> 00:20:39:	But the long center was also formed as a private
00:20:39> 00:20:40:	nonprofit.

00:20:40> 00:20:42:	We're not just a realtor or a,
00:20:42> 00:20:45:	you know we're not just that side,
00:20:45> 00:20:47:	we're we're. The vision was beyond that to be a
00:20:47> 00:20:47:	private,
00:20:47> 00:20:50:	nonprofit, and part of the reason for that is,
00:20:50> 00:20:52:	is the resident companies don't fill all the dates.
00:20:52> 00:20:56:	And so thinking about how we share use for space,
00:20:56> 00:21:00:	the reality is that it's very expensive to upkeep that
00:21:01> 00:21:01:	facility.
00:21:01> 00:21:05:	The city gives us money each year,
00:21:05> 00:21:09:	\$300,000 each year in order to help with capital improvements.
00:21:09> 00:21:11:	But that's about probably 10 to 20%
00:21:11> 00:21:13:	of what it actually costs to run and upkeep the
00:21:13> 00:21:14:	facility.
00:21:14> 00:21:17:	So it's a great example of a private public partnership,
00:21:17> 00:21:20:	because we're really able to supplement to make sure that
00:21:20> 00:21:24:	that site remains full and of the vision we've always
00:21:24> 00:21:27:	had is to really be a community gathering space and
00:21:27> 00:21:31:	and serve artists and serve the creative sector and and
00:21:31> 00:21:35:	strive for accessibility and really become a place where everybody
00:21:35> 00:21:37:	in Austin feels at home.
00:21:37> 00:21:40:	So once we started. That was always the vision for
00:21:40> 00:21:43:	us and then very over the last five years or
00:21:43> 00:21:43:	SO,
00:21:43> 00:21:46:	we've really started to move from thinking of ourselves as
00:21:46> 00:21:47:	just a venue.
00:21:47> 00:21:48:	We are very booked and busy,
00:21:48> 00:21:51:	so we were able to kind of think more about
00:21:51> 00:21:54:	long term vision as Austin has really evolved and changed
00:21:54> 00:21:57:	and part of it is as Carl's talking about you
00:21:57> 00:21:58:	know, how do we preserve?
00:21:58> 00:22:00:	How do we serve more?
00:22:00> 00:22:01:	How do we help artists stay here?
00:22:01> 00:22:04:	How do we connect the community in those ways and
00:22:04> 00:22:04:	so?
00:22:04> 00:22:08:	Looking forward, we're really looking beyond the venue and saying,
00:22:08> 00:22:11:	how can we be? A support just a support system
00:22:11> 00:22:14:	to the ecology of Austin along center is in a
00:22:14> 00:22:18:	really wonderful and unique position because we're agnostic in that

00:22:18> 00:22:21:	we are not. Our mission really is just serve the
00:22:21> 00:22:25:	creative sector and connect artists in the community very broadly
00:22:25> 00:22:28:	so we don't have to produce a specific art form
00:22:28> 00:22:32:	so we can really be much more proactive and reactive
00:22:32> 00:22:36:	to the the evolution of Austin arts ecology and what
00:22:36> 00:22:37:	the needs are.
00:22:37> 00:22:39:	So we're moving really into being.
00:22:39> 00:22:41:	We have a service provider,
00:22:41> 00:22:43:	really a Community asset. How can we help?
00:22:43> 00:22:48:	These conversations start and really support the preservation of Austin
00:22:49> 00:22:50:	moving forward,
00:22:50> 00:22:52:	and so as far as the cultural trust it's it's
00:22:52> 00:22:55:	been so wonderful that now we have a partner in
00:22:55> 00:22:58:	those efforts and and I have been working together a
00:22:58> 00:23:00:	lot and we talk a lot about the three legged
00:23:00> 00:23:03:	stool you need the real estate piece you need the
00:23:03> 00:23:03:	funding piece,
00:23:03> 00:23:06:	but you also need the the industry experts that that
00:23:06> 00:23:07:	once the buildings are there,
00:23:07> 00:23:09:	or as we're visioning, you know.
00:23:09> 00:23:12:	What are the needs? What is the equitable solutions?
00:23:12> 00:23:14:	What companies can work together?
00:23:14> 00:23:16:	How do you manage and operate?
00:23:16> 00:23:17:	How do you make up the funding gap?
00:23:17> 00:23:19:	You know there is. There's always going to be a
00:23:19> 00:23:20:	funding gap,
00:23:20> 00:23:22:	and so thinking in that way and also,
00:23:22> 00:23:25:	how do we elevate the conversation where we're talking as
00:23:25> 00:23:26:	a sector?
00:23:26> 00:23:28:	And so you know, we've been talking about having a
00:23:28> 00:23:31:	consortium and different ways that we can fundraise together market
00:23:31> 00:23:32:	together,
00:23:32> 00:23:35:	share other services. So really looking at that and how
00:23:35> 00:23:37:	we can support the cultural trust.
00:23:38> 00:23:44:	Awesome. Katie. Can you just tell us more about your
00:23:44> 00:23:47:	experience in Brooklyn?
00:23:47> 00:23:50:	How long is that effort been going on?
00:23:50> 00:23:50:	At.
00:23:51> 00:23:54:	Did I turn this off again?
00:23:54> 00:23:59:	Hello, sorry the the Brooklyn Cultural District has has I

00:23:59> 00:24:03:	was working on it 10 years ago now and for
00:24:03> 00:24:08:	several years before then moving on to work at the
00:24:08> 00:24:11:	city and then working on it from the city.
00:24:11> 00:24:14:	But like John said it,
00:24:14> 00:24:17:	advocacy for this kind of work takes a very long
00:24:17> 00:24:17:	time.
00:24:17> 00:24:21:	It doesn't happen without a strong arts and creative sector
00:24:21> 00:24:24:	that is willing to stand up and.
00:24:24> 00:24:27:	And be loud and strong about what's needed and necessary
00:24:27> 00:24:28:	in the city.
00:24:28> 00:24:33:	And so, in Brooklyn, that district formed because of the
00:24:33> 00:24:39:	strong leadership of Harvey Weinstein from the I'm sorry Harvey
00:24:39> 00:24:43:	Lichtenstein from the Brooklyn Academy of Music.
00:24:43> 00:24:50:	Completely different guy. Completely every guy.
00:24:50> 00:24:54:	At the Brooklyn Academy, music is the longest continuously operating
00:24:54> 00:24:56:	Performing Arts Center in the country.
00:24:56> 00:24:59:	Formed in a, it's known as Bam and there happened
00:24:59> 00:25:03:	to be 2 city owned parking lots adjacent to BAM
00:25:03> 00:25:06:	that the city acquired in the 70s I believe,
00:25:06> 00:25:10:	and had been there and used for parking for the
00:25:10> 00:25:14:	for the facility and the that arts community.
00:25:14> 00:25:17:	Also the Mark Morris Dance Center has been there for
00:25:17> 00:25:17:	a long time.
00:25:17> 00:25:21:	Many other arts organizations and artists in the neighborhood.
00:25:21> 00:25:25:	For a long time and talked about affordability and the
00:25:25> 00:25:26:	need for before,
00:25:26> 00:25:30:	Brooklyn really exploded the need for investment from the city
00:25:30> 00:25:34:	and the Bloomberg administration got that and they had a
00:25:34> 00:25:37:	strong leader at the Department of Cultural Affairs who also
00:25:38> 00:25:41:	happened to have worked at BAM before and understood the
00:25:41> 00:25:45:	power they understood the power of the arts in economic
00:25:45> 00:25:48:	development and how important it is to the character of
00:25:48> 00:25:54:	neighborhoods and communities, and. They invested about \$100 million in
00:25:55> 00:26:00:	the development of facilities existing arts organizations,
00:26:00> 00:26:04:	but also in the creation of new facilities.
00:26:04> 00:26:08:	And they leverage those parking lots in addition to actual
00:26:08> 00:26:08:	capital.
00:26:08> 00:26:13:	And it was successful, I think because number one strong

00:26:14> 00:26:15:	arts community,
00:26:15> 00:26:18:	who you know, demanded to be at the center of
00:26:18> 00:26:19:	the conversation.
00:26:19> 00:26:22:	And that's critical. It doesn't happen well,
00:26:22> 00:26:23:	or it really it doesn't happen at all.
00:26:23> 00:26:24:	But it certainly doesn't happen.
00:26:24> 00:26:29:	Well, unless you really center the voices of artists and
00:26:29> 00:26:30:	arts leaders.
00:26:30> 00:26:34:	And then you had the strong study entity willing to
00:26:34> 00:26:36:	put muscle behind getting it done.
00:26:36> 00:26:39:	And then finally, you had to have a real estate
00:26:39> 00:26:42:	community willing to experiment and try.
00:26:42> 00:26:45:	Try different models and I think that what you're doing
00:26:45> 00:26:47:	with the trust is exactly the way to go.
00:26:49> 00:26:53:	Are there any lessons learned that you'd like to share
00:26:53> 00:26:53:	with us?
00:26:53> 00:26:54:	Well,
00:26:54> 00:26:55:	I would say
00:26:55> 00:26:57:	we were talking about this a little bit earlier.
00:26:57> 00:27:01:	You have to be willing to make mistakes and you
00:27:01> 00:27:03:	have to be willing to.
00:27:03> 00:27:06:	Be criticized and for everyone to be suspicious of what
00:27:06> 00:27:07:	you're doing.
00:27:07> 00:27:10:	Have a tough skin and you have to believe in
00:27:10> 00:27:12:	the value of what you're doing.
00:27:12> 00:27:16:	You can't. You can't do this kind of work without
00:27:16> 00:27:21:	really fundamentally believing in the importance of.
00:27:21> 00:27:25:	Of addressing. A lot of what you talked about in
00:27:25> 00:27:26:	the beginning,
00:27:26> 00:27:31:	Carl and the and centering equity and centering culture you
00:27:31> 00:27:35:	have to believe that that's critical that diversity,
00:27:35> 00:27:41:	that that real culture is a critical component of successful
00:27:41> 00:27:43:	neighborhoods and communities,
00:27:43> 00:27:46:	and you also have to be willing to be as
00:27:46> 00:27:48:	transparent as you can.
00:27:48> 00:27:51:	And to Createspace for the arts community and the real
00:27:51> 00:27:54:	estate community to really get to know each other.
00:27:54> 00:27:58:	And to have hard conversations and to fight and not
00:27:58> 00:28:01:	like each other and then come together.
00:28:01> 00:28:03:	And it's messy. It's not.
00:28:03> 00:28:06:	It's not easy and you can't expect it to be
00:28:06> 00:28:07:	and you have to,

00:28:07> 00:28:10:	but you have to be willing to learn by doing
00:28:10> 00:28:11:	and and make some mistakes.
00:28:14> 00:28:15:	Yeah.
00:28:16> 00:28:22:	Thank you. So right now we're in the middle of
00:28:22> 00:28:25:	the RFP process.
00:28:25> 00:28:27:	And and can you talk about that?
00:28:27> 00:28:30:	And just how? How much money are we talking about
00:28:30> 00:28:32:	and what are those buckets and criteria
00:28:32> 00:28:33:	and that kind of stuff?
00:28:33> 00:28:35:	And I just wanted to follow up a little bit
00:28:35> 00:28:36:	with with what Katie said,
00:28:36> 00:28:39:	and I think one of the advantages of how we've
00:28:39> 00:28:42:	started this process with public dollars and actually just a
00:28:42> 00:28:45:	nod to any of the creatives in the cultural community
00:28:45> 00:28:47:	that I've been able to meet within the past three
00:28:47> 00:28:48:	months to get to know them.
00:28:48> 00:28:51:	Who are online and in the room,
00:28:51> 00:28:54:	really? It starts with those voices that's critical to the.
00:28:54> 00:28:57:	Equity piece, which I think we're trying to having learned
00:28:57> 00:28:58:	lessons from New York.
00:28:58> 00:29:01:	I started my career in public sector in second term
00:29:01> 00:29:04:	Bloomberg and I think at the time we were still
00:29:04> 00:29:07:	recovering from 911 and so it wasn't clear that New
00:29:07> 00:29:10:	York was going to even have the acceleration that it
00:29:10> 00:29:11:	had at the time.
00:29:11> 00:29:15:	But hindsight 2020 more could have possibly been done to
00:29:15> 00:29:18:	have that equity conversation for at the front front.
00:29:18> 00:29:20:	Most of what's been going on.
00:29:20> 00:29:22:	And so I think it's really important that we,
00:29:22> 00:29:25:	as Katie suggested, continue this conversation.
00:29:25> 00:29:28:	Even throughout this RFP process and beyond,
00:29:28> 00:29:31:	with this Community, with the community of creatives in a
00:29:31> 00:29:33:	place where we can actually figure out how to how
00:29:33> 00:29:34:	to try some things,
00:29:34> 00:29:35:	I think that's really critical.
00:29:35> 00:29:37:	Thank you for that rallying moment,
00:29:37> 00:29:40:	but on the RFP at the moment,
00:29:40> 00:29:44:	based on we have about \$16.9 million based on sort
00:29:44> 00:29:48:	of three different buckets of money from the public sector.
00:29:48> 00:29:52:	It is important right now that the RFP is focused
00:29:52> 00:29:55:	on organizations and operators of of culture,
00:29:55> 00:29:57:	arts, music. In making and,

00:29:57> 00:30:00:	I want to express that making part of it because
00:30:00> 00:30:02:	I think I've been blown away by,
00:30:02> 00:30:05:	you know, for profit, not for profit arts to creatives
00:30:06> 00:30:09:	that really exist in these hubs of amazing makers as
00:30:09> 00:30:09:	well.
00:30:09> 00:30:11:	So I think it's really important that we're expanding that
00:30:12> 00:30:12:	creative economy.
00:30:12> 00:30:14:	What I think John and Corey have spoken about,
00:30:14> 00:30:17:	but I think it's the cultural trust is about that
00:30:17> 00:30:18:	entire sector right now.
00:30:18> 00:30:21:	It's a needs assessment from the operators and organizations point
00:30:21> 00:30:22:	of view.
00:30:22> 00:30:25:	We've heard a lot from individual artists losing space and
00:30:25> 00:30:27:	losing housing at a rapid pace.
00:30:27> 00:30:30:	We do not have the ability to focus on that
00:30:30> 00:30:31:	yet in this program,
00:30:31> 00:30:34:	but certainly in the broader cultural trust program we are
00:30:34> 00:30:37:	working with our partners on that we have an idea
00:30:37> 00:30:40:	that as we have the needs assessment done,
00:30:40> 00:30:43:	understand what the complete needs of the ecosystem are to
00:30:43> 00:30:46:	really then partner and put out a call for both
00:30:46> 00:30:50:	spaces and partnerships with the real estate and development community
00:30:50> 00:30:53:	in the next few months to start to look at
00:30:53> 00:30:55:	where some matching can happen.
00:30:55> 00:30:57:	Certainly with your projects, but ultimately.
00:30:57> 00:31:00:	That works really well for creative sector.
00:31:00> 00:31:03:	There have been numbers of I would say surveys and
00:31:03> 00:31:07:	requests for information from the creative sector many years up
00:31:07> 00:31:08:	until this point.
00:31:08> 00:31:11:	This is really focused on the now in terms of
00:31:11> 00:31:14:	making some initial investments in that sector,
00:31:14> 00:31:17:	both in existing city owned properties as well as new
00:31:17> 00:31:22:	facilities and preserving existing facilities so that we don't lose
00:31:22> 00:31:26:	more live music venues or important cultural assets like theater
00:31:26> 00:31:29:	groups that have been. Moving from place to place to
00:31:29> 00:31:32:	place because they aren't really secure in one location.
00:31:32> 00:31:34:	We're focused on that right now.
00:31:34> 00:31:37:	Understanding what that pipeline is and that pipeline

	hopefully will
00:31:37> 00:31:40:	not just be invested in these initial few projects that
00:31:40> 00:31:41:	we can do this time,
00:31:41> 00:31:43:	but also raise some additional resources.
00:31:43> 00:31:47:	Leverage the public dollars, and actually complete more projects overtime,
00:31:47> 00:31:51:	and then certainly as more public funding would be available.
00:31:51> 00:31:53:	Really starting to tune what those tools are to fit
00:31:54> 00:31:56:	the needs of the creative ecosystem.
00:31:56> 00:31:57:	So that's the RFP process.
00:31:57> 00:31:59:	It's really meant. For the organizations,
00:31:59> 00:32:03:	operators, and collectives of I think artists and makers that
00:32:03> 00:32:07:	have space issues you know challenges with respect to rent
00:32:07> 00:32:11:	and or security and sort of trying to minimize the
00:32:11> 00:32:16:	amount of like extensive sweat equity in terms of moving
00:32:16> 00:32:17:	from place to place.
00:32:17> 00:32:20:	To place that turn is very difficult and especially post
00:32:20> 00:32:22:	COVID very very difficult.
00:32:22> 00:32:25:	Many of the folks in our ecosystem have already moved
00:32:25> 00:32:27:	their living spaces out of the city.
00:32:27> 00:32:30:	We certainly don't want to lose more of the actual.
00:32:30> 00:32:33:	Places where art, creative and and activities are happening here
00:32:33> 00:32:33:	in the city,
00:32:33> 00:32:36:	so we're kind of at that moment where I can't
00:32:36> 00:32:38:	do this RFP fast enough,
00:32:38> 00:32:40:	but we're starting with the voices of what the needs
00:32:40> 00:32:40:	are.
00:32:40> 00:32:44:	And then, of course, working to partner with you all
00:32:44> 00:32:47:	going forward and I will just mention this will be
00:32:47> 00:32:50:	something that we hope that our multiple rounds of the
00:32:50> 00:32:53:	an RFP process and or an ability to continually understand
00:32:53> 00:32:55:	where the needs are and how we can match make
00:32:55> 00:32:58:	with the private sector and with some of the development
00:32:58> 00:32:59:	that's happening.
00:33:00> 00:33:04:	So, are there ways that developers can get involved in
00:33:04> 00:33:05:	this RFP process and
00:33:06> 00:33:09:	and informally, we have been meeting with quite a few
00:33:09> 00:33:13:	development companies that have been interested in the trust and
00:33:13> 00:33:16:	ultimately had responded to an RFP RFI in the past
00:33:16> 00:33:19:	and actually we've got some members of our development community

00:33:19> 00:33:21:	that have supported arts,
00:33:21> 00:33:25:	music and culture already. So we've really started with that
00:33:25> 00:33:26:	on the website.
00:33:26> 00:33:29:	It's just emailed me at an at austinedc.org.
00:33:29> 00:33:32:	It's very simple. I'm employee one so,
00:33:32> 00:33:34:	but we have more coming but I think it's just
00:33:34> 00:33:37:	most important to start a dialogue and I think what
00:33:37> 00:33:40:	we really wanna do is partner and having learned lessons
00:33:40> 00:33:42:	in other cities and how culture,
00:33:42> 00:33:46:	arts and music can be incorporated into larger development schemes.
00:33:46> 00:33:48:	What are the practical realities as well as what are
00:33:48> 00:33:50:	the funding that needs to happen?
00:33:50> 00:33:52:	And I will just mention the monies we have right
00:33:52> 00:33:53:	now.
00:33:53> 00:33:56:	It is not a funding gap finance mechanism,
00:33:56> 00:34:00:	but it is something where it could help anchor culture
00:34:00> 00:34:00:	on.
00:34:00> 00:34:02:	In within a project, it's one of the things we're
00:34:02> 00:34:03:	looking at now.
00:34:03> 00:34:05:	How to creatively use those dollars?
00:34:05> 00:34:07:	But that being said, I think that the earlier we
00:34:07> 00:34:10:	can be in conversation with you all about how you
00:34:10> 00:34:12:	would like to incorporate the DNA in the city in
00:34:12> 00:34:15:	your projects. Authentically, we would like to be your partner
00:34:15> 00:34:16:	in that.
00:34:19> 00:34:24:	And I'm Privy to the RFI process that went through
00:34:24> 00:34:25:	to come up with the.
00:34:25> 00:34:30:	The guidelines for the RFP process that we're going through
00:34:30> 00:34:32:	now and equity is a huge part of that.
00:34:33> 00:34:36:	In fact, I think it's 65%
00:34:36> 00:34:42:	in in where, whereas the economic viability and financial stability
00:34:43> 00:34:43:	is at 35%,
00:34:44> 00:34:47:	at least in one of those buckets.
00:34:47> 00:34:49:	It seems like you know,
00:34:49> 00:34:52:	artists are great at creating art,
00:34:52> 00:34:56:	but they may not necessarily be great at managing the
00:34:56> 00:34:58:	the the business part.
00:34:58> 00:35:02:	Do you think that there are opportunities for.
00:35:02> 00:35:06:	The this community to start to connect with those folks
00:35:06> 00:35:09:	that kind of have the goods in terms of pay.
00:35:09> 00:35:15:	They really have a really strong concepts about what can

00:35:15> 00:35:16:	be done.
00:35:16> 00:35:18:	So can you just speak to that for a moment?
00:35:19> 00:35:23:	Sure. If there's a delay that's the issue,
00:35:23> 00:35:25:	so the really important thing again,
00:35:25> 00:35:26:	back to the equity piece.
00:35:26> 00:35:30:	So depending on the the source of money we have
00:35:30> 00:35:33:	a two different scoring rubrics just for this round,
00:35:33> 00:35:36:	and we're really again creating a ranked shortlist,
00:35:36> 00:35:39:	which does not mean that that is in fact the
00:35:39> 00:35:41:	the identified investments,
00:35:41> 00:35:43:	because as you all know,
00:35:43> 00:35:46:	there might be a very important arts organization that would
00:35:46> 00:35:49:	like to stay in their building and have their building
00:35:49> 00:35:50:	purchased and the.
00:35:50> 00:35:53:	Building owner is not willing to sell so,
00:35:53> 00:35:56:	so we're really looking across the board at a variety
00:35:56> 00:35:59:	of different feasibility issues that we have to cover and
00:35:59> 00:36:01:	and really develop out with you all to make these
00:36:01> 00:36:04:	projects feasible. But from an equity perspective,
00:36:04> 00:36:08:	specifically around the public dollars which come from the 2018
00:36:08> 00:36:11:	bond issuance and I should start with the city has
00:36:12> 00:36:15:	an extensive list of public assets that right now are
00:36:15> 00:36:20:	from the long center onto many different facilities throughout the
00:36:20> 00:36:20:	city.
00:36:20> 00:36:23:	A lot of them manage actually by the Parks and
00:36:23> 00:36:24:	Recreation Department,
00:36:24> 00:36:28:	really an extensive infrastructure of cultural activities,
00:36:28> 00:36:31:	but with those investments there have been a variety of
00:36:32> 00:36:36:	different types of potential users which on on occasion have
00:36:36> 00:36:41:	really leaned towards really well funded and well organized organizations,
00:36:41> 00:36:43:	and a number of the smaller organizations.
00:36:43> 00:36:48:	The culturally based arts and music and cultural groups have
00:36:48> 00:36:51:	been users of those spaces,
00:36:51> 00:36:54:	but not really. Like long term tenants of any particular
00:36:54> 00:36:56:	space and have had to move around a lot,
00:36:56> 00:36:57:	they've had a lot of churn,
00:36:57> 00:37:00:	and in fact because of the high rents and taxes,
00:37:00> 00:37:04:	property taxes going up because of the the increased gentrification
00:37:04> 00:37:07:	are certainly feeling more and more threatened in terms of

00:37:07> 00:37:11:	their ability to use space appropriately and securely and make
00:37:11> 00:37:14:	longer term plans about their organization.
00:37:14> 00:37:17:	So this is really meant to anchor folks in places
00:37:17> 00:37:21:	where they can actually start to plan and actually build
00:37:21> 00:37:22:	their business.
00:37:22> 00:37:24:	So they don't have to constantly be catching up with
00:37:24> 00:37:26:	where they're going to be next year or where they're
00:37:26> 00:37:28:	going to be able to locate long term.
00:37:28> 00:37:29:	So with those public dollars,
00:37:29> 00:37:32:	we have the ability to provide that focus on equity
00:37:32> 00:37:35:	and in terms of being able to support the breadth
00:37:35> 00:37:38:	and most diverse different organizations,
00:37:38> 00:37:41:	artists, and and makers in this community.
00:37:41> 00:37:44:	That doesn't mean that the breadth of organizations isn't being
00:37:44> 00:37:44:	supported,
00:37:44> 00:37:47:	it just means really from a sense of equity really
00:37:47> 00:37:50:	making sure that those organizations are on the same level
00:37:50> 00:37:52:	playing field to be able to practice.
00:37:52> 00:37:53:	There arts and that is really,
00:37:53> 00:37:55:	really really critical for us.
00:37:55> 00:37:58:	We also have some monies that are really associated with
00:37:59> 00:38:01:	preservation based on a lot of losses.
00:38:01> 00:38:04:	I know you all have experience in terms of live
00:38:04> 00:38:05:	music funds,
00:38:05> 00:38:08:	live music venues or other places.
00:38:08> 00:38:10:	The equity is still a component,
00:38:10> 00:38:14:	especially places that have served a broad variety of diverse
00:38:14> 00:38:17:	artists and certainly diverse workforce.
00:38:17> 00:38:20:	But we're also trying to preserve venues that are obviously
00:38:20> 00:38:22:	part of the tourist and it.
00:38:22> 00:38:25:	Tourist economy and DNA of the city as well and
00:38:25> 00:38:28:	part of the Austin brand and that actually the scoring
00:38:28> 00:38:30:	rubric is more includes diversity,
00:38:30> 00:38:33:	but that financial and operating capacity is key.
00:38:33> 00:38:35:	We also want to be able to invest in both
00:38:35> 00:38:39:	organizations and venues that can also stay in business and
00:38:39> 00:38:42:	so certainly as we and I will have Corey speak
00:38:42> 00:38:46:	to once we have these cultural trust assets,
00:38:46> 00:38:48:	making sure that the folks that are going to be
00:38:48> 00:38:52:	in these places remain successful and that is not just
00:38:52> 00:38:53:	about rent prices.

00:38:53> 00:38:55:	And property taxes. It's a whole lot more,
00:38:55> 00:38:57:	so I'm going to bounce it to Corey.
00:38:57> 00:38:59:	Thank you so much. So yeah.
00:38:59> 00:39:01:	As as Anne's talking about,
00:39:01> 00:39:04:	I think it's really important to remember that to have
00:39:04> 00:39:05:	a sustainable art,
00:39:05> 00:39:08:	ecology or ecosystem here in Austin,
00:39:08> 00:39:11:	which is the reason why the growth in the evolution
00:39:11> 00:39:12:	is happening so quickly.
00:39:12> 00:39:14:	And people are so attracted to it is we need
00:39:14> 00:39:15:	the real estate.
00:39:15> 00:39:17:	I mean, that's a big one that's trains left the
00:39:17> 00:39:18:	station,
00:39:18> 00:39:20:	and so we're trying to catch up to it.
00:39:20> 00:39:23:	You know, John and ACA does a great job and
00:39:23> 00:39:24:	advocating and.
00:39:24> 00:39:26:	And really, getting the message out there,
00:39:26> 00:39:30:	but one of the things that healthy ecosystems have that
00:39:30> 00:39:33:	we haven't had in the past here in Austin is
00:39:33> 00:39:36:	really infrastructure support.
00:39:36> 00:39:39:	So an organization that can like really provide as you
00:39:39> 00:39:39:	said,
00:39:39> 00:39:41:	Karl. So many of these people,
00:39:41> 00:39:44:	you know, small arts organizations their executive director is
	also
00:39:44> 00:39:46:	the bookkeeper is also the HR manager.
00:39:46> 00:39:48:	It sweeps the stage. Whatever it takes.
00:39:49> 00:39:53:	Yeah, exactly. And so one they can't compete in a
00:39:53> 00:39:54:	marketplace.
00:39:54> 00:39:57:	Where there is so much entertainment you have the South
00:39:57> 00:39:59:	by spending a lot of money which we love and
00:39:59> 00:39:59:	it's wonderful.
00:39:59> 00:40:02:	It's really hard to get visibility and and frankly the
00:40:02> 00:40:05:	organizations aren't professionalized in the way.
00:40:05> 00:40:08:	They don't have the kind of expertise where they're really
00:40:08> 00:40:09:	competitive.
00:40:09> 00:40:11:	So one of the things that we're looking at the
00:40:11> 00:40:14:	long center is creating a consortium,
00:40:14> 00:40:16:	which there is a shared services program out of the
00:40:16> 00:40:18:	Pittsburgh Cultural Trust,
00:40:18> 00:40:20:	which is a great example of this where we could
00:40:20> 00:40:23:	provide some infrastructure and some backup House.

00:40:23> 00:40:24:	You know whether it's HR.
00:40:24> 00:40:28:	Whether it's accounting, whether it's office space so that the
00:40:28> 00:40:30:	creatives can be creative and make the work.
00:40:30> 00:40:32:	I mean, I can't make the work.
00:40:32> 00:40:32:	That's not what I do,
00:40:32> 00:40:34:	but I can certainly help you.
00:40:34> 00:40:36:	Strategic plan and and we have a really wonderful team
00:40:36> 00:40:40:	and experts already in place that could could provide that
00:40:40> 00:40:40:	infrastructure.
00:40:40> 00:40:43:	And so again, I think the long center a lot
00:40:43> 00:40:44:	of people you know,
00:40:44> 00:40:46:	Speaking of building trust is kind of like OK,
00:40:46> 00:40:48:	why are y'all going in that direction?
00:40:48> 00:40:51:	But we are uniquely positioned in the city in our
00:40:51> 00:40:54:	in our vision is is much broader than just what's
00:40:54> 00:40:55:	happening in the venue.
00:40:55> 00:40:58:	And we're very lucky because we have had such a
00:40:58> 00:41:01:	long relationship with the city and and the Council members
00:41:01> 00:41:02:	and economic development.
00:41:02> 00:41:05:	And we have been able to work with them historically
00:41:05> 00:41:07:	and and officially.
00:41:07> 00:41:08:	We are. They are our landlord.
00:41:08> 00:41:10:	We just have a long term lease with the city,
00:41:10> 00:41:14:	so there's no official agreement of what we have to
00:41:14> 00:41:16:	do or what we have to provide.
00:41:16> 00:41:18:	But it it makes sense in our evolution.
00:41:18> 00:41:22:	And now with an on the cultural trust and in
00:41:22> 00:41:22:	place,
00:41:22> 00:41:26:	it's certainly kind of has has moved it forward much
00:41:26> 00:41:27:	quicker than we ever could.
00:41:27> 00:41:30:	So I I think it's really critical to be thinking
00:41:30> 00:41:30:	about that.
00:41:31> 00:41:33:	All of the pieces that have to fall in place
00:41:33> 00:41:34:	to really sustain.
00:41:34> 00:41:35:	Yeah, the ecosystem.
00:41:36> 00:41:40:	I'll just second everything that you're saying and
00:41:41> 00:41:43:	you know and and our experience in New York and
00:41:43> 00:41:46:	you to have the diversity of the ecosystem,
00:41:46> 00:41:49:	you need those tiny organizations that are,
00:41:49> 00:41:50:	you know, a three person organization.
00:41:50> 00:41:53:	You need the hundred person organization,
00:41:53> 00:41:56:	and they're they're this. You want that difference in not

00:41:56> 00:41:57:	only discipline,
00:41:57> 00:42:01:	dance, music, visual arts, theater,
00:42:01> 00:42:06:	but you also need the different scales of organizations that
00:42:06> 00:42:07:	provide an offer.
00:42:07> 00:42:11:	Such different kinds of of programming and the the the
00:42:11> 00:42:14:	fact that you have a partner.
00:42:14> 00:42:15:	Already the the cultural trust,
00:42:15> 00:42:18:	but then also the long center with the your YOUR
00:42:18> 00:42:21:	operational experience that you have willing to create that sort
00:42:21> 00:42:22:	of support system.
00:42:22> 00:42:27:	That's huge. That's really really critical because none of these
00:42:27> 00:42:31:	pieces will work well on your own that it has
00:42:31> 00:42:34:	to be a collaborative mix and it's it's that was
00:42:34> 00:42:37:	something that the city of New York played wore a
00:42:37> 00:42:38:	lot of hats.
00:42:38> 00:42:42:	And and for the arts and having more private partners
00:42:42> 00:42:44:	who can help with that,
00:42:44> 00:42:46:	I think is. There's a huge advantage for you here
00:42:46> 00:42:46:	in Austin,
00:42:46> 00:42:49:	so. You guys are set up really well too.
00:42:51> 00:42:53:	So you want to add something.
00:42:58> 00:43:01:	So say something really quick please.
00:43:01> 00:43:03:	You know this is a long term play.
00:43:05> 00:43:08:	If if your industry is going to be thriving in
00:43:08> 00:43:09:	20 years,
00:43:09> 00:43:11:	the culture of this city is gonna have to be
00:43:11> 00:43:12:	thriving.
00:43:12> 00:43:14:	In 20 years. We want to make it so that
00:43:14> 00:43:17:	young artists still wanna come here and create work and
00:43:17> 00:43:22:	that grassroots stuff where Katie said that three person organization
00:43:22> 00:43:27:	making some crazy experimental theater right now could one day
00:43:27> 00:43:30:	be producing HBO series here in town.
00:43:30> 00:43:32:	I mean that happens the Duplass brothers,
00:43:32> 00:43:35:	who are film makers. You may have heard of started
00:43:35> 00:43:35:	here.
00:43:35> 00:43:38:	So you wanna make awesome and continue to be a
00:43:38> 00:43:41:	Mecca for young artists and that weight works its way
00:43:41> 00:43:44:	up through the economy to the Matthew McConaughey level and

00:43:44> 00:43:48:	that keeps people coming here and that keeps your tenants
00:43:48> 00:43:52:	coming here because the cultural vitality allows them to attract
00:43:52> 00:43:54:	and maintain top talent.
00:43:54> 00:43:58:	So I wanna at least input why this should be
00:43:58> 00:44:01:	important to you as it is to us.
00:44:01> 00:44:01:	Join
00:44:01> 00:44:05:	boards get to know the arts organizations they they need
00:44:05> 00:44:05:	you.
00:44:05> 00:44:08:	They need your expertise, but you also need to understand
00:44:08> 00:44:11:	better the challenges that these entities are facing.
00:44:11> 00:44:16:	These organizations. These businesses are incredibly difficult to run and
00:44:16> 00:44:18:	and they need as much support that was.
00:44:18> 00:44:21:	That was always something that New York City has had
00:44:21> 00:44:24:	as a very involved real estate of sector in terms
00:44:24> 00:44:26:	of the not for profit world.
00:44:26> 00:44:29:	And a lot of people are also suspicious of that,
00:44:29> 00:44:30:	but I think it is.
00:44:30> 00:44:33:	But it as as you are making your way and
00:44:33> 00:44:34:	in Austin,
00:44:34> 00:44:35:	it's a it's a critical,
00:44:35> 00:44:39:	critical way to to be involved and to really understand
00:44:39> 00:44:41:	more about the culture of the place.
00:44:43> 00:44:47:	Great so we have some questions here from the audience
00:44:47> 00:44:50:	and I wanted to try and get to some of
00:44:50> 00:44:50:	those,
00:44:50> 00:44:56:	Dave Sullivan says. Well, you know it gives you the
00:44:56> 00:44:59:	option of being anonymous,
00:44:59> 00:45:04:	so I figured. Hey, it's all good.
00:45:04> 00:45:04:	Quick
00:45:04> 00:45:05:	change to anonymous right?
00:45:08> 00:45:11:	Most of them are actually are anonymous.
00:45:11> 00:45:14:	So how about designating arts music districts,
00:45:14> 00:45:18:	you know we had the Red River Cultural District we're
00:45:18> 00:45:19:	getting.
00:45:19> 00:45:23:	We have this resolution for this E 11th African American
00:45:23> 00:45:25:	Cultural Arts District.
00:45:25> 00:45:28:	I know that that's something that we're really focused on
00:45:29> 00:45:29:	in the ADC,
00:45:29> 00:45:32:	particularly block 16 and 18.
00:45:32> 00:45:33:	Can can you speak to that and?

00:45:35> 00:45:39:	Sure, yes. I think well,
00:45:39> 00:45:42:	and in fact, even though my title is Chief Transaction
00:45:42> 00:45:43:	Officer,
00:45:43> 00:45:47:	my transactions start to bleed across property lines into immediate
00:45:47> 00:45:48:	districts.
00:45:48> 00:45:51:	That's something that I've taken from many lessons within different
00:45:51> 00:45:55:	cities and how to actually create a successful project that's
00:45:55> 00:45:59:	really integrated into the hyperlocal and ultimately the ecosystem surrounding
00:45:59> 00:46:02:	it. And I think one of the things that the
00:46:02> 00:46:05:	city of Austin is taking very seriously is really how
00:46:05> 00:46:06:	to create.
00:46:06> 00:46:07:	But based on some work,
00:46:07> 00:46:09:	it's been done over many years,
00:46:09> 00:46:13:	solely Austin, which actually helps support the Red River District
00:46:13> 00:46:18:	looking at districts and making sure that they're authentically anchored
00:46:18> 00:46:21:	within either culture or arts or live music venues and
00:46:21> 00:46:23:	then starting to look at the toolbox that can help
00:46:23> 00:46:25:	provide the entire environment,
00:46:25> 00:46:27:	not just the particular real estate projects.
00:46:27> 00:46:28:	And I think that's very,
00:46:28> 00:46:30:	very, very important, and I think in as we go
00:46:30> 00:46:31:	forward,
00:46:31> 00:46:35:	one of the projects that Carl mentioned we will be
00:46:35> 00:46:36:	helping.
00:46:36> 00:46:38:	Facilitate the transaction of of two blocks,
00:46:38> 00:46:42:	the development of two blocks in the urban renewal district
00:46:42> 00:46:45:	on 11th St working for and on behalf of the
00:46:45> 00:46:48:	Urban Renewal agency and this is a really critical couple
00:46:48> 00:46:52:	of parcels that are not just two blocks that are,
00:46:52> 00:46:54:	you know, needing development. Have been on the pipeline for
00:46:54> 00:46:55:	development for a long time,
00:46:55> 00:46:58:	and certainly there's plenty of needs that we can imagine
00:46:58> 00:46:59:	need to be there,
00:46:59> 00:47:03:	but more importantly, looking at the opportunities with those transactions
00:47:03> 00:47:05:	to look at that immediate district and help with the
00:47:05> 00:47:09:	resolution around the African American Heritage Cultural District.

00:47:09> 00:47:12:	How can we really provide activity and efforts leading up
00:47:13> 00:47:16:	to that development and ultimately beyond that to really
	imbue
00:47:17> 00:47:19:	a cultural identity to a place that is going to
00:47:19> 00:47:24:	be sustaining and identified, and some place to celebrate
	many
00:47:24> 00:47:27:	generations that want to be represented in place and again
00:47:27> 00:47:31:	to kind of keep that diversity front for most in
00:47:31> 00:47:33:	terms of part of the identity of the city of
00:47:33> 00:47:33:	Austin?
00:47:33> 00:47:34:	And so I think. Again,
00:47:34> 00:47:36:	as we start to do real estate transaction services.
00:47:36> 00:47:39:	We're certainly very interested in making sure we're
	partnering with.
00:47:39> 00:47:42:	All of the land owners and property owners in that
00:47:42> 00:47:43:	area,
00:47:43> 00:47:45:	and certainly some of the the more cultural anchors and
00:47:46> 00:47:49:	arts sort of contemporary arts activities that are going on
00:47:49> 00:47:51:	that area and making sure they're staying in place.
00:47:53> 00:47:55:	
	Think we got time for one more question.
00:47:55> 00:48:00:	It's anonymous. Is the trust prepared to request that the
00:48:00> 00:48:06:	city support and implement P3 models for new development
00:48:06> 00:48:11:	projects
	that could generate funds for its objectives?
00:48:11> 00:48:12:	I don't know what P3 is,
00:48:12> 00:48:14:	but educate me please.
00:48:15> 00:48:19:	P3 is public private partnership and I usually say that
00:48:19> 00:48:21:	that can be capital P's,
00:48:21> 00:48:25:	which is a formal finance contract Model 2 small piece,
00:48:25> 00:48:28:	which means a little bit more lofi trying to organize
00:48:28> 00:48:31:	the stakeholders that have to come together to create these
00:48:31> 00:48:34:	projects and absolutely we are looking at many ways to
00:48:34> 00:48:37:	leveraging these dollars. The public dollars that we have and
00:48:37> 00:48:39:	potentially we hope in the future,
00:48:39> 00:48:42:	some philanthropic dollars which are often kind of a
	backbone
00:48:42> 00:48:44:	to many of these cultural trust efforts.
00:48:44> 00:48:48:	But certainly looking at our lending partners,
00:48:48> 00:48:50:	whether it's CDF, Eyes, Community development,
00:48:50> 00:48:53:	finance institutions, we have quite a few here local but
00:48:53> 00:48:57:	ultimately nationwide that are of course interested in Austin
	as
00:48:57> 00:48:57:	everyone is.

00:48:57> 00:49:00: 00:49:00> 00:49:04:	But also our banks and really making sure that we're looking at all of those different potential funding and sustaining
00:49:04> 00:49:04:	sources,
00:49:04> 00:49:07:	which always the hardest, is the sustaining dollars.
00:49:07> 00:49:09:	And I think working with Corey and and John and
00:49:09> 00:49:11:	others in our community to try and figure that out
00:49:11> 00:49:12:	is really critical.
00:49:12> 00:49:14:	So maybe it's a four P model that we need.
00:49:14> 00:49:15:	Here.
00:49:16> 00:49:18:	There you go, yeah, well,
00:49:18> 00:49:22:	we're right at. Right on time,
00:49:22> 00:49:25:	which is awesome. Really thank you all.
00:49:26> 00:49:28:	I would encourage you all to get out there and
00:49:28> 00:49:29:	explore the arts,
00:49:29> 00:49:33:	the arts community. Get involved.
00:49:33> 00:49:36:	I I know that there's an effort they've been starving
00:49:36> 00:49:38:	for for these funds for a long time.
00:49:38> 00:49:41:	Many are dying on the vine and I know that
00:49:41> 00:49:45:	there's an effort afoot where they really want to get
00:49:45> 00:49:48:	out there with the business community and how.
00:49:48> 00:49:51:	How can we develop these reciprocal relationships?
00:49:51> 00:49:53:	You're bringing in a lot of people from out of
00:49:53> 00:49:54:	town.
00:49:54> 00:49:55:	What are ways that they can?
00:49:55> 00:50:00:	Interact with these arts arts organizations where they can develop
00:50:00> 00:50:05:	a sense of community and and place so there's lots
00:50:05> 00:50:07:	of opportunities there.
00:50:07> 00:50:09:	My my organization is one of those,
00:50:09> 00:50:10:	one of those, but there's.
00:50:10> 00:50:12:	There's plenty of others out there,
00:50:12> 00:50:14:	so I encourage you to do so,
00:50:14> 00:50:16:	and really thank you all for being here this morning.
00:50:16> 00:50:18:	Thank you.

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