



City of Dallas

Allocations Committee

August 19, 2025

Office of Arts and Culture
City of Dallas

Agenda



- Vote: New Panelists
- Briefing on City Council Resolution No. 25-1081
- Briefing on Cultural Organizations Program 2026
- Staff Updates
- Chair Updates



New Panelists



- Proposed addition of 16 new panelists
- Backgrounds include: Arts Administration, Non-Profit Development, Architecture - Design, Marketing, and Music Artists



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Resolution 25-1081



- On June 25, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-1081, which (a) directed the City Manager to review and evaluate City programs and policies to determine whether any adjustments may be necessary to ensure compliance with federal directives, and (b) authorized the City Manager to take any temporary operational actions necessary to ensure City programs and policies are in compliance with federal directives.
- The City of Dallas is undertaking this review and has temporarily ceased operational enforcement and/or use of programs or policies that could be out of compliance with anti-discrimination laws, federal grant conditions, and federal directives (including but not limited to Executive Orders Nos. 14173, 14218, 14287, 14288, and 14151).



Executive Orders



- [EO 14151](#): “Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing”
- [EO 14173](#): “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity”
- [EO 14218](#): “Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders”
- [EO 14287](#): “Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens”
- [EO 14288](#): “Strengthening and Unleashing America’s Law Enforcement to Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens”



Programmatic Impact



- Res. 25-1081 is a City-wide directive impacting all departments, not just OAC. Since June, OAC staff has been working diligently with a City-wide compliance task force to ensure that artists and community stakeholders are served as seamlessly as possible while the City remains in compliance with federal objectives.
- Fully executed contracts for 2025 will proceed as planned.
- The following programs are being reviewed:
 - Culture of Value Month 2025
 - Cultural Organizations Program 2026
 - Community Artist Program 2026
 - ArtsActivate 2026
- All applicant artists for any of the programs listed above were emailed on 8/8/2025 (see *appendix*.) Applicants will be notified of next steps as soon as possible.



2024-25 Programmatic Impact



Funding Year	Program	Were all contracts signed before 4/22/25?*	Next steps
2024-25	Culture of Value	No. No award letters or contracts were issued.	Discuss postponement to FY 2025-26 and update artists when possible.
	ArtsActivate	Yes – Rounds 1 & 2: All contracts executed before 4/22/25.* No – Round 3: 45 contracts were executed after 4/22/25. Additionally, 3 contracts are not yet executed: Dallas Bach Society, Orchestra of New Spain, and Dallas Musicians' Association.	All artists from R3 have award letters dated 4/4/2025. OAC is working with the task force to ensure compliance for all projects, including the three unexecuted contracts.
	Cultural Organizations Program	No – Anita Martinez Ballet Folklórico's COP contract is unexecuted.	OAC will work with CAO to ensure that AMBF's contract complies with federal directives (will still move forward.)
	Community Artists Program	Yes. All contracts executed before 4/22/25.	N/A



*Effective date of Executive Order 14173 for contractors and subcontractors of the federal government (i.e. City of Dallas)

2025-26 Programmatic Impact



Funding Year	Program	Have applications been received that include material still under review?	Do 2025-26 guidelines need to be updated?	Next Steps
2025-26	Culture of Value	Yes – 2024-25 applications were received and have been scored. Exploring 2025-26 dates for this programs. 2025-26 applications have not opened.	N/A	Determine new dates and communicate to artists.
	ArtsActivate	Yes – Round 1 received. Panel has not yet scored.	Yes – draft of updated guidelines sent to task force	Run ArtsActivate program with two rounds, rather than three.
	Cultural Organizations Program	Yes – 2025-26 full applications received, panel finished scoring.	Yes – see above	Review COP with modified scoring.
	Community Artists Program	Yes – 2025-26 full applications received, panel finished scoring.	Yes – see above	Review CAP with modified scoring.



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Review: Cultural Organizations Program



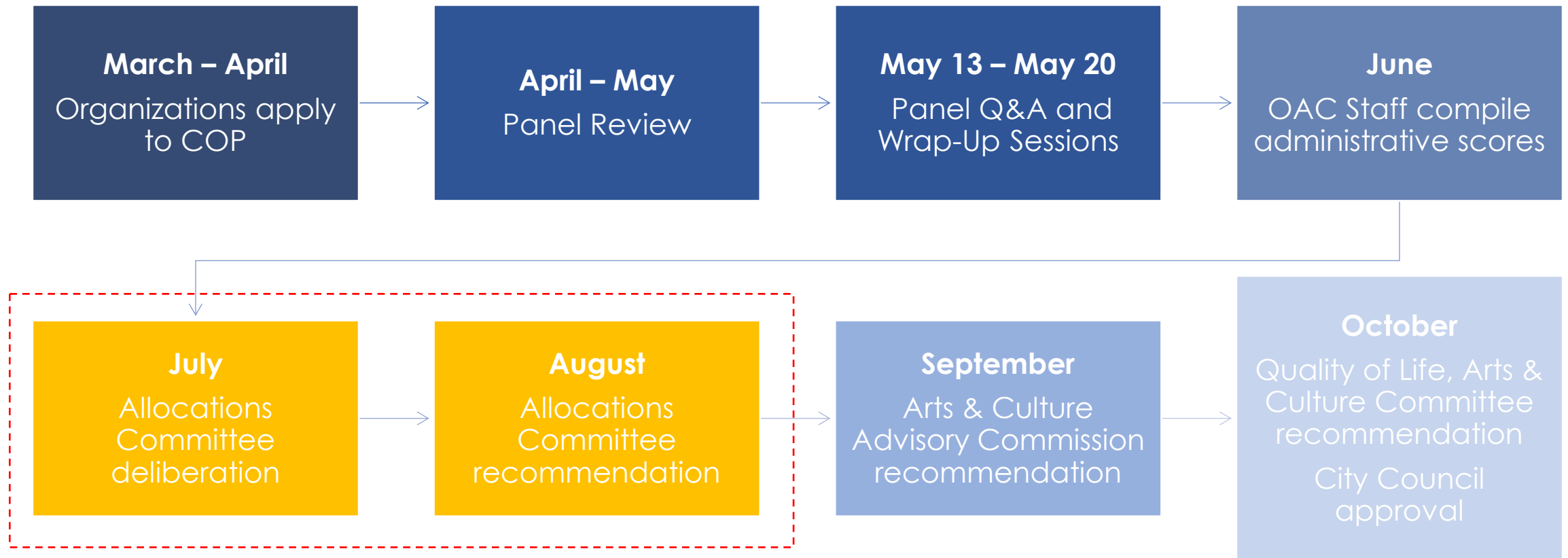
- The COP is used to annually contract cultural services with established nonprofit cultural organizations.
- Eligibility includes:
 - At least \$100K in annual revenue
 - At least 3 years' 501c3 status in good standing
 - At least 1 staff member paid through W2
 - Dallas (non-P.O. box) location, with >50% programming located in Dallas
- Typically, organizations are awarded funding as a percentage of revenue (either last year or 3-year-average).
- Significant changes in recent years:
 - Two years ago, Allocations also instituted a “minimum” for each tier, as a percentage of revenue.
 - Last year, Allocations used a significant portion of the HOT tax to cover costs and changed Guidelines for 2026 to begin a 3-year cycle.



Review: COP Selection Process



March through October, 2025



Review: 68 out of 70 applicants went to panel



- Every organization funded in 2025-26 reapplied (54 organizations).
- Additionally, the following 14 new or immediately returning organizations applied and went to panel review:
 - Tier 1: Pegasus Contemporary Ballet*, Swan Strings*, The Women's Chorus of Dallas*#, Urban Arts Collective*
 - Tier 2: Ochre House Theater, The Texas Supremacy of Music and Arts*, Texas Folklife Resources, Inc.
 - Tier 3: Agape Broadcasting Foundation (dba KNON)*, Lone Star Circus Arts Center\$, SPARK! Dallas*, Young Leaders Strong City*
 - Tier 4: Dallas Black Dance Theater*#, Dallas Contemporary
 - Tier 5: n/a
 - Tier 6: Dallas Symphony Association (*FULL, not just Children's Chorus*)#
- Two organizations submitted letters of intent and/or applications, but did not go to panel:
 - Beyond the Ball – decided that their programming was not a fit
 - Let the Beat Build – not yet 3 years old; will reapply in the future

* Past ArtsActivate Awardee

Past COP Awardee

\$ Community Arts partner



Review: COP Panels, May 13 - 20



- Representatives from 68 applicant organizations attended individual, 10-minute Q&A sessions. **EVERY organization attended their assigned time, with limited technical issues (!)**
- OAC selected 49 panelists. Each panelist was assigned between 12 – 15 applications to review.
- 31 panelists completed their reviews and attended in person. An additional 6 completed all reviews and scoring, but had a last-minute conflict (car trouble, illness, etc.) that prevented them from attending in person.
- **NEW:** This year, current COP awardees were required to nominate a panelist to serve on their organization's behalf (staff, volunteer, artist, etc.) during any funding round of the year. 6 organizations sent affiliated panelists to serve -- in tiers other than their own – on COP, which helped add credibility to the panel.
- Each panel met from 12:00-5 p.m. Panels were in person; organizations met virtually.
- All panels received at least 6 - 9 scores. (The Cultural Policy requires 5.)



NEW: Scoring Rubric



Original Rubric in Guidelines

- Panel
 - Public Benefit(35)
 - Access & Impact (20)
 - Organizational Capacity (15)
- Administrative
 - Contract Compliance & Financial Viability (10)
 - Organization Program Management (10)
 - Adherence to Cultural Policy Diversity Criteria (10)
- **TOTAL = 100 points**

Modified Scoring (Federal Directives)

- Panel
 - Public Benefit (35)
 - Organizational Capacity (15)
- Administrative
 - Contract Compliance and Financial Viability (10)
 - Organization Program Management (10)
 - Access and Impact (working with task force to determine modified metrics (20))
- **TOTAL = 90 points**



These changes allow OAC to consider original applications as efficiently as possible, without collecting new materials from applicants or panelists.

For Discussion: Scope changes



- This year, multiple organizations have notified OAC that the scope of work that was adjudicated by panel is no longer feasible for the fall of 2025-26, due to financial factors
 - Examples: Dallas Children's Theater, Big Thought
- Other organizations cut scope of work in original application, showing reduction from prior years
- Suggested outcome: Understanding that scope changes may happen to all organizations, OAC does not recommend cutting funding an arbitrary amount. Instead, staff recommends making sure that these organizations' percentage of funding is aligned with peers in their tier.



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Staff Updates



- Community Meeting: August 26, LCC
- September Allocations Meeting: September 4
- *Additional meetings in September regarding the Cultural Organizations Program may need to be scheduled; September 11 tentative*



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Appendix: Resources for Commissioners



- Res. 25-1081 text ([link](#))
- August 6th City Council Meeting ([link](#)) – included omnibus briefing



Appendix: Funding Programs Update Email



Dear Dallas Arts Community,

On June 25, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-1081, which (a) directed the City Manager to review and evaluate City programs and policies to determine whether any adjustments may be necessary to ensure compliance with federal directives, and (b) authorized the City Manager to take any temporary operational actions necessary to ensure City programs and policies are in compliance with federal directives. The City of Dallas is undertaking this review and has ceased operational enforcement and/or use of programs or policies that could be out of compliance with anti-discrimination laws, federal grant conditions, and federal directives (including but not limited to Executive Orders Nos. 14173, 14218, 14287, 14288, and 14151). [Linked here](#)

Artists or arts organizations with a **fully executed contract** for **2025** prior to April 22, 2025, may continue fulfilling their obligations under these contracts, as per previously published guidelines. The Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) is working diligently with City leadership to determine how these directives may impact various programs and services provided by OAC. As we do so, this email serves as an official notification that current timelines for application review and funding notifications may be delayed as a result of our review process. The following programs may be impacted by this review:

- Culture of Value 2025
- FY 2025-26 Community Artist Program (CAP)
- FY 2025-26 Cultural Organizations Program (COP)
- ArtsActivate 2026, Round 1

Applicants for these programs will be notified of next steps as they become available.

During this time, we ask for your patience and understanding as we work on providing further answers and guidance to our valued artists, organizations, and partners. Please direct questions to OACGeneral@dallas.gov.

Thank you for your artistry and service to the City of Dallas.

Sincerely,

Office of Arts and Culture

