Stand With Austin Fund

Request for Proposals

The SXSW Festival is integral to the culture and economy of Central Texas. The global spread of the novel coronavirus, and rising concerns about an outbreak in our region, led Mayor Steve Adler to declare a local state of disaster in Austin, Texas. This announcement resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 SXSW Conference and Festivals. It is estimated that the Festival has upwards of a $350 million economic impact on the people and businesses who fuel the city-wide festival experience. The economic ripple effect of the cancellation will be wide-ranging and will impact the hard-working members of our service and creative industries the hardest.

The Stand with Austin Fund was created by Austin Community Foundation and the Entrepreneurs Foundation to help offset the economic impact of SXSW’s cancellation. The Fund accepts charitable donations to support nonprofits assisting individuals and small businesses most negatively impacted by the cancellation of SXSW and least able to recover on their own. The Fund seeks to deploy its resources exclusively in support of the talented people that rely on SXSW for their livelihood.

The Stand with Austin Fund invites area nonprofits to submit proposals for the work they are doing to provide assistance to individuals and small businesses most negatively impacted by the cancellation of SXSW. Grants will be awarded to projects based on satisfaction of three main criteria:

/ Knowledge of the constituency served: Preference shown to organizations with a history of supporting self-employed, hourly workers and people in the gig economy.

/ Plan for the type of relief offered: Funding only available for organizations proposing support for individual and small businesses in the following industries:
   / Music and Creative, including Technical
   / Service and Bar
   / Hospitality

/ Defined process for quick distribution to those most affected: Applicants must demonstrate the ability to identify and support the affected constituencies with prudence and expedience.

Preference will be shown to organizations requiring the least amount of overhead to execute relief projects.

Eligibility:
/ 501c3 Organizations, units of government, or faith communities
/ Geographic focus on Austin, Texas and surrounding counties that planned to host SXSW or related events
/ Preference will be shown to organizations working in under-resourced communities

Process:
/ Application is available online through the Austin Community Foundation website.
/ Austin Community Foundation staff will follow-up with any clarifying questions

Review Process:
The Stand With Austin Steering Committee, made up of industry experts and community leaders, will advise on the disbursement of funds.
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Timeline for Decision-Making:
We understand that quick access to philanthropic capital is paramount. Proposals will be reviewed and decisions will be made within 2 weeks of submission.

// RFP released: March 26
// Proposals due: April 17 by 5pm
// All decisions announced: April 30

Reporting Requirements:
Grantees must submit a final report one month after the conclusion of the work or no later than October 15, 2020.

Application Info:
Organizational Information
Contact Information
Select constituency served – Music/Creative, Service/Bar, Hospitality, Other (please define)
Project timeline
Request amount
Total project budget
Description of Constituency Served, including history working in this community
Project description, including history working in this constituency and plan for deploying resources to those most affected
Project budget
Other funders
Attachments: 501c3 letter, annual budget, board list, 990, audit