

Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs 2016: Arts and Cultural Plan Year in Review

Incredible things happened in Mayor Sylvester Turner's first year in office to help art and culture flourish for the benefit of all residents and visitors. We are pleased to report measurable progress implementing the City's Arts and Cultural Plan in 2016.

- ✓ Completed the [first evaluation](#) of the Civic Art Program and identified ways to improve the City's art in public spaces for more people
- ✓ Completed a performance review of contracted arts agencies and increased transparency with a new [Grants and Funding webpage](#)
- ✓ Joined a stakeholder-driven task force researching new revenue sources for arts and culture
- ✓ Provided a \$50,000 lead grant for a new [international Latino theater initiative](#) designed to tour Houston neighborhoods
- ✓ Partnered with Mid-America Arts Alliance and Fresh Arts on the Houston launch of [Artist INC](#) to bolster professional practice for individual artists
- ✓ Increased the Mayor's communication from two [media releases](#) in 2015 to 10 and launched a [Facebook](#) page generating 728 likes
- ✓ Collaborated with the Department of Public Works & Engineering, Houston Police Department, City Council and UP Art Studio to add 109 new neighborhood "[Mini Murals](#)" for a total of 147
- ✓ Featured 62 Houston-based artists and 174 students in 20 [City Hall exhibits](#) in partnership with community groups and City departments
- ✓ Reduced from three to two the number of Council Districts without Civic Art
- ✓ Prioritized City Initiative funding with 14 of the 16 grants based in neighborhoods
- ✓ Conducted a [city-wide call](#) for projects resulting in the Mayor's endorsement of an application to the National Endowment for the Arts to support a new artist space and cultural district in the Fifth Ward
- ✓ Supported Houston's [Poet Laureate Program](#) with Houston Public Library, resulting in 15 presentations/readings and more than 400 submissions to Houston's Favorite Poem Anthology from over 100 zip codes
- ✓ Worked with the Office of Government Relations on [City arts and cultural priorities](#) for the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature
- ✓ Proposed a collaboration with Houston's Youth Poet Laureate, Writers in the Schools (WITS) and HUE Mural Festival resulting in a [mural](#) in the EaDo neighborhood
- ✓ Helped the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee secure the Pro Football Hall of Fame "[Gridiron Glory](#)" exhibition at the University Museum at Texas Southern University to coincide with Super Bowl LI

The Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs implements the City's Arts and Cultural Plan, ensuring the City's investments celebrate Houston's artists, cultures and communities with transparency, accountability, access and equity.

Your continued input is vital. [What do you think would help make Houston's arts and cultural life even better?](#)