


# Arts Commission City of Killeen Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025





# Arts Commission Annual Report

## FY 2025

### Introduction

In March 1990, through ordinance the Killeen City Council established the Arts Commission as a seven-member board appointed by City Council with representatives in the following:


1. Instrumental and vocal music/radio/television/tape and sound recording
2. Dance/drama/motion pictures/creative writing
3. Folk art/ painting sculpture/ photography/graphic craft arts/architecture/design and allied fields
4. Education with a background in the Arts
5. Three members of the public-at-large

The board membership was amended in 2018 to nine members, including an additional two members of the public-at-large.

The ordinance requires the commission to submit to City Council the following:

- The recommendations for the allocation funding for the Arts
- An annual advisory report prior to budget consideration, recommending actions to be taken by the community and the City Council to advance art and culture within the City of Killeen
- Recommendations on long range goals for the development of tourism and the convention and hotel industry through its use of funding for the arts

Further, the ordinance charges the Arts Commission to explore and encourage development of community resources for the support of the arts and cultural enrichment in Killeen.



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Introduction

Current Members of the Commission

Chairperson:

Christopher Brown, Educator Arts

Vice-Chairperson:

Denise Sherman, At-Large

Commission Members

Verda Bell, Dance/Drama/Writing

John Miller, Folk Art/Painting/Sculpture

Van Fraley, Music/Radio/TV/Tape/Sound

Richard White, At-Large

Ashley Rodriguez, At-Large

Treymont Cannon, At-Large

Arts Commission Mission

- To develop a community multi-cultural arts program that will enhance tourism and hotel/motel use, through the arts
- To encourage an increase in quality arts programs available to the citizens of the City of Killeen
- To stimulate an interest in the local arts of all cultures and minority groups especially ensuring access for seniors and disabled citizens
- To encourage exposure to the arts for school-age citizens
- To preserve and develop the arts and to maximize the quality of the arts and their contributions to our City's culture
- To recommend the equitable distribution of resources from the public and private sectors necessary to accomplish the mission
- To produce and promote activities which accomplish this mission

# Arts Commission Annual Report FY 2025 Year at a Glance, Contd.

City Council approved grants for 7 organizations and those organization held a total of 18 events during fiscal year 2025.

These events covered a vast array of artistic expression in the areas of film, theatre, music, food, and cultural representation.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to grantees once their last event evaluation was considered by the commission. Organizations shown top left to bottom right are as follows:

Artesenia Y Cultura Hispana, Songhai Bamboo Roots, Vive Les Arts



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 Year at a Glance, Contd.

Awarded Events

Organization	Events	Grant Amount*	Amount Paid
Songhai Bamboo Roots	Kwanzaa Caribbean AFRAM Festival Killeen 1st African American Children/Adult Author's Bookfair	\$27,016	\$23,358
Armed Forces Natural Hair and Health	Armed Forces Natural Hair & Health Expo Veggie & Art Fest The Whispers of Love	167,721	111,869
IMPAC Outreach	African American Arts and History Showcase	22,444	8,894
Artesenia y Cultura Hispana	Fiesta of Art and Culture FY 2024 Fiesta of Art and Culture FY 2025	5,378	5,378
It's All About You Talent Services	Youth Takeover Holiday Bazaar	12,905	12,905
Vive Les Arts Children's Theatre	Frozen JR. Alice in Wonderland JR. Annie	28,068	24,583
Vive Les Arts Societe	Sweeney Todd The Drowsy Chaperone Tootsie The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Anything Goes	41,668	41,668
		<b>\$305,200</b>	<b>\$228,655</b>

# Arts Commission Annual Report FY 2025 Year at a Glance, Featured Photos

Songhai Bamboo Roots



Armed Forces Natural Hair and Health



IMPAC Outreach



Its All About You  
Talent Services



Artesenia y Cultura Hispana



Vive Les Arts Children's Theatre



Vive Les Arts Societe



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### Long-Term Goals

The recovery supported by ARPA funding allowed the Arts Commission Grant program to rebound and return to in-person cultural programming. Looking ahead, the Commission’s long-term goal is to build on this progress by launching new initiatives, including a Poet Laureate program, and by actively promoting the Commission and its impact through social media. These efforts will support artists, increase public engagement, and foster a more connected and visible arts community.

### Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Actions

#### Funding

Chapter 351.103(c) of the Texas Local Tax Code states:


Not more than 15 percent of the hotel occupancy tax revenue collected by a municipality, other than a municipality having a population of more than 1.6 million, or the amount of tax received by the municipality at the rate of one percent of the cost of a room, whichever is greater, may be used for the purposes provided by Section 351.101(a)(4)

The Arts Commission recommends funding in the amount of \$272,403

#### Grant funding for prior and current fiscal years

Fiscal Year	City Funding	ARPA Funding	Total Annual Funding
2023	230,000	29,668 <sup>(1)</sup>	259,668
2024	313,461	87,672 <sup>(1)</sup>	401,133
2025	305,200		305,200
2026	125,000		125,000

(1)Remaining ARPA funding not expended in prior years.



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### Annual Advisory Report

In support of its mission to promote tourism and strengthen Killeen's convention and hotel industry through the arts, the Arts Commission identified strategic long-term goals for the upcoming grant year. These goals were aimed at furthering the primary mission of promoting tourism and the convention and hotel industry through the arts.

The Arts Commission Members were asked to complete a survey to identify long-term goals the Arts Commission should work to achieve. These long-term goals are listed below.

#### Long-Term Goals:

- Develop a Poet Laureate Program for the city
  - ◇ Serve as a cultural ambassador initiative, elevating local literary voices and engaging residents and visitors through public readings, educational outreach, and community-centered events that strengthen Killeen's cultural identity and support tourism.
- Marketing
  - ◇ City of Killeen social media platforms, partnerships with local hotels and motels, and collaborative advertising with community partners.
- Work with local artists to create public art projects in various parts of Killeen, including downtown

The Commission will formulate a plan to achieve these goals during the FY 2026 grant cycle.

The City of Killeen is a community made up of many ethnicities whose gifts of art, culture and customs are treasures to be shared with the world. The arts are essential to remaining a vibrant city.

“Poetry is the lifeblood of language, the heartbeat of a people.”  
— Naomi Shihab Nye, Texas Poet Laureate