

VENUE PROJECT FUNDS



Bexar County History Center

Bexar County purchased the former Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas's San Antonio branch office on East Nueva Street in 2014. The additional space will house the Spanish Archives, the Daughter of the Republic of Texas' Alamo Library Collection, and other historical exhibits for the public.

Photo: by Cynthia Esparza.

San Antonio Express Newspaper. A good home for DRT collection. August 8, 2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/editorials/article/A-good-home-for-DRT-collection-9128889.php> on October 31, 2016.

Bexar County, Texas
Community Venue Company 507 (Cash Basis)
Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017

FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
Actual	Estimate	Budget

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Beginning Balance

Undesignated Funds	\$113,164,397	\$170,195,064	\$155,919,121
Total Beginning Balance	\$113,164,397	\$170,195,064	\$155,919,121

Revenue

Venue Taxes	\$26,142,792	\$26,214,968	\$25,500,000
Intergovernmental Revenue	13,856,375	2,915,698	6,000,000
Service Fees	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Proceeds from Debt	75,210,000	-	-
Other Revenue	60,208	333,836	25,000
Subtotal	\$116,569,375	\$30,764,502	\$32,825,000
Total Revenues	\$116,569,375	\$30,764,502	\$32,825,000

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$229,733,772	\$200,959,566	\$188,744,121
------------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$960,727	\$2,154,657	\$2,046,016
Capital Expenditures	37,457,204	16,572,272	10,000,000
Debt Service	21,120,777	26,313,516	25,537,981
Subtotal	\$59,538,708	\$45,040,445	\$37,533,997
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0

TOTAL OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS	\$59,538,708	\$45,040,445	\$37,583,997
---------------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Appropriated Fund Balance	\$170,195,064	\$155,919,121	\$151,160,125
----------------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$229,733,772	\$200,959,566	\$188,744,121
-----------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

COMMUNITY VENUE PROGRAM OFFICE

Mission: The Community Venues Program Office's (CVP) mission is to oversee and implement the four Initiatives approved by Bexar County Citizens during the May 2008 election. The CVP Office will provide quality oversight, effective quality control and responsive service to all 24 approved projects, the Bexar County citizens and Commissioners Court in a fair and equitable manner.

Vision: The CVP Office is committed to providing oversight of planning, construction and stability for all 24 projects to insure fiscal responsibility, quality management, and provide advice for continued success. The Office strives to develop trust within the community, while expanding convention and tourism activity, through timely completion and successful longevity of projects.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide oversight on planning and hiring of CVP projects.
- Provide quality control throughout the construction phase.
- Ensure fiscal responsibility of the CVP Office and all projects.
- Provide leadership and insight into the sustainability of projects.
- Restore and enhance the San Antonio River to its natural habitat and flow.
- Enhance local arts and culture.
- Increase quality of life for Bexar County Citizens.
- Create first class facilities.
- Enhance tourism activity.

Program Description: The CVP Office serves as the County's point of contact regarding the venue projects that were approved by voters on May 10, 2008. The Director will oversee the development of contracts and inter-local agreements as well as oversee the development and implementation of all 24 contracts. The Bexar County Commissioners Court unanimously approved 24 agreements with various organizations to develop athletic, performing arts, cultural arts, and San Antonio River projects.

The Community Venues project are funded by the visitor tax which is a combination of a 1.75% levy on hotel rooms and a 5% levy on short-term car rentals, and are divided into the following funding and initiatives:

PROPOSITION 1

San Antonio River Improvements:

Improvements to the San Antonio River were allocated \$125 million. Of that amount, \$70 million in flood control taxes was allocated to advance-fund the Federal share of costs associated with the project. In 2009, the project received \$25.3 million in stimulus funding as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and of that amount \$10 million was allocated to reduce the County's commitment to advance the Federal share.

This reduction has allowed for a small amount of additional capacity in the Visitor Tax Finance Plan and the additional capacity will be used to pay for costs associated with constructing portals from the river to the new Performing Arts Center with no impact to any other Visitor Tax projects. The FY 2011-12 Budget included funding for the Veterans Plaza / Performing Arts Center and for the County / City History Center in the Briscoe Heritage Museum. The budget includes \$8 million for the Veterans Plaza Portal and \$2 million for the County / City History Museum, for a total of \$10 million.

These improvements will connect the river from Brackenridge Park to Mission Espada. Other aspects of these projects will restore the natural course of the river south of downtown to Mission Espada and restore the natural ecosystem by planting thousands of native trees and grasses. In addition, hike and bike trails, pedestrian footbridges, recreational amenities and river access points will be added to the river.

PROPOSITION 2

Amateur Sports Facilities:

Funding in the amount \$80 Million has been allocated for Proposition 2 which provides for the purchase, acquisition, construction and equipping of Youth and Amateur Athletic Facilities in Bexar County. This proposition consisted of a total of 13 projects. All projects are now complete.

PROPOSITION 3

Community Arenas and Grounds

\$100 Million has been allocated for Proposition 3. Bexar County residents own the Freeman Coliseum, the AT&T Center, and the Exhibition and Stock Show Facilities. The goal of this Proposition is to be a responsible landlord, good community leader, and keep these facilities up-to-date and viable for our tenants and citizens.

- **Freeman Coliseum**

Improvements include replacing the lower seating section, upgrading to Americans with Disability standards, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning upgrades, a new sound system and stage, and other building improvements. The total project budget is \$10,000,000. This project is now complete.

- **Exhibition and Stock Show Facilities**

This project will enable the facility to be renovated into a multi-purpose and climate controlled agricultural facility. The total project budget is \$15,000,000. This project is now complete.

- **AT&T Center**

This project will enhance the arena's technology and mechanical systems and will provide for expanded/increased flexible meeting space to allow the building to compete for and attract more events and functions. The total project budget is \$75,000,000. This project is now complete.

PROPOSITION 4

Performing Arts Facilities

\$111 Million has been allocated for three projects to construct and improve Performing Arts Facilities in Bexar County. The following two projects remain, as the Briscoe Western Art Museum has been completed.

- **Alameda Theater**

This project includes renovation, restoration, and expansion of The Alameda. This is part of the Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture. The total project budget is \$7,000,000.

- **Performing Arts Center**

This project included a 1,700 seat, 180,000 gross square foot multiple purpose, variable acoustic hall with a double pit lift, a 350-seat capacity, multiple purpose, multiple form, acoustically sound Studio Theater, a 3,000 square foot rehearsal hall, lobby space that allows for 8-10 square feet per person, an educational facility, and administrative and resident company offices. The total project budget is \$100,000,000. The project is now complete.

Appropriations:

	FY 2014-15 Actual	FY 2015-16 Budget	FY 2015-16 Estimate	FY 2016-17 Budget
Personnel Services	\$203,208	\$205,236	\$209,072	\$211,166
Travel and Remunerations	0	500	0	0
Operational Costs	757,516	2,001,500	1,939,443	1,834,350
Supplies and Materials	3	500	6,142	500
Total	\$960,727	\$2,207,236	\$2,154,657	\$2,046,016

Program Justification and Analysis:

- The FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget decreased 5.6 percent when compared to FY 2015-16 Estimates as described below.
 - The Personnel Services group maintained funding for the Program Director and salary supplements for two attorney positions who work on contracts associated with Venue Projects.
 - The Operational Costs group decreased 5.7 percent when compared to FY 2015-16 Estimates. Funding is appropriated for facility usage and performance costs associated with venue facilities. Additionally, \$1,000,000 in funding is allocated to support capital improvements at the Witte Museum.
 - The Supplies and Materials group included a nominal amount of funding for supply needs throughout the fiscal year. The large amount included in the FY 2015-16 Estimates was for expenses related to moving furniture from the AT&T Center during its renovation.
- There are no program changes in the FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget.

Authorized Positions:

	FY 2014-15 Actual	FY 2015-16 Estimate	FY 2016-17 Adopted
Director	1	1	1
Attorney III*	2	2	2
Total - Community Venue Program Office	3	3	3

**The two Attorney III positions receive a salary supplement for the services they provide to the Venue Program. Their regular salaries and benefits are paid for from the General Fund. Once the program is complete they will no longer receive the salary supplement provided by this fund.*