

## Miranda, Anna

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**From:** Reyes, Stephanie  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** Gerald Kurten  
**Cc:** Ybarra, Rebecca; Moyer, Laurie; Miranda, Anna  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] San Marcos Art Center funding

Hello Mr. Kurten,

Thank you for your email. I am copying Rebecca Ybarra, Destination Services Director; Laurie Moyer, Assistant City Manager; and Anna Miranda, Interim Finance Director/CFO for their awareness of your request so it can be looked at accordingly as part of our budget process.

One of them will be in touch regarding next steps.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

My best,  
Stephanie

Stephanie L. Reyes, MPA  
Interim City Manager  
City of San Marcos, TX

Sent from my iPhone. Please forgive typos as well as the creative grammar and spelling of words.

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**From:** Gerald Kurten <Madfeesh@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 3:03 PM  
**To:** Reyes, Stephanie <SReyes@sanmarcostx.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] San Marcos Art Center funding

Stephanie,

It has recently come to our attention that a selection of arts and cultural organizations in San Marcos have on-going annual support from the city's general funds. We believe that the San Marcos Art Center is a fundamental component of the city's priority to address downtown vitality as defined in the 2021-22 Strategic Initiatives. We are curious about this funding and are hoping that you could help us find a pathway to securing this support.

The San Marcos Art Center opened in October 2019 and is operated by the San Marcos Art League. Because we operate in a fiscally responsible way, we were able to keep the art center open despite the closures, limited operating hours, and reduced traffic during the height of the pandemic. Since then, the San Marcos Art Center has become a vital part of the downtown landscape and it continues to provide tourism activity and arts and culture resources at an extremely low cost to the citizens of San Marcos.

The Art Center:

- serves as the home base for all Art League programs such as the Arts Squared Market in each month on the courthouse square, and our kid's Halloween art program Art Scared each October.
- Was a pillar in the recent city-wide Bill Hutson exhibition project. This exhibit also served as the inaugural collaboration between the San Marcos Art League, the Texas State Galleries, the Price Center, the Calaboose Museum and the Walker's Gallery at the San Marcos Public Library.

- Presented a very success art exhibit featuring local artist Robert Jones which sold approximately \$4,000 of art during the opening reception.

We manage the Art Center almost entirely through the volunteerism of its members, the Board, and through fees and sales commissions charged to showing artists. We have purposefully kept these fees low to avoid creating an economic barrier to participation. Through the end of the 2022 these fees and commissions will cover approximately 50% of our rent plus utilities. HOT Funds grants from the San Marcos Art Commission cover most of the other half of this cost. The building in which the Art Center is located has recently sold and the new landlord has indicated the rental rates will increase to market values in 2023. In addition, Hot Funds grants are competitive and subject to the constraints of the available funding and the Art Commission has conveyed its reluctance for them to be used for permanent funding. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the future of the San Marcos Art Center with you and/or other appropriate city staff who could help us secure additional support.

Sincerely,

Gerald

Gerald Kurten

President, San Marcos Art League

940-445-2612

[gkurten@live.com](mailto:gkurten@live.com)

[info@artleaguesmtx.org](mailto:info@artleaguesmtx.org)



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