

CITY OF BASTROP CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT

City of Bastrop

1311 Chestnut Street

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Attachments: Cultural Arts Master Plan

Ernest Luna, Program Administrator, Texas Commission on the Arts,

The City of Bastrop, Texas took enormous pride in being named a Cultural Arts District in 2012. It was an exciting acknowledgment of what we already knew – that Bastrop was a unique and special place full of artists, arts, heritage, history, and life. In the decade that has passed since receiving the designation, the district, downtown Bastrop, and the entire city has seen rapid and persistent growth - culturally, economically, as an organization, and to our community's population.

What has changed in Bastrop since 2012? We still celebrate our history and our unofficial designation as the "Most Historic Small Town in Texas." Now we have a museum and visitors center that is state of the art, elegantly designed, and full of meticulous exhibits on local history. We still have a thriving community of artists and craftsmen. Now we have an architecturally beautiful, and award winning, art center. We still have an opera house that performs live theater. Now it is a thriving organization, regularly playing to sell-out crowds of tourists and locals. We have developed a Cultural Arts Master Plan. Our downtown merchants organize regular events, our parks are often host to events and recreation, our flagship special events bring tens of thousands of visitors to our district, all further boosted by the efforts of Visit Bastrop - our destination marketing organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to recertify as a Texas Cultural Arts District. It is a daunting task to try and capture all of the programs, practices, spirit, and frankly magic, that make Bastrop such a special place! We humbly ask for your consideration in this process while we not-so-humbly share with you a snapshot of the things that we believe give Bastrop it's authentic vibe and culture.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Gleason, Assistant City Manager for Community Engagement/Main Street Director

