



ARTS & CULTURE

LOCAL MUSIC SPOTLIGHT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

This program is for “original songs/compositions.” How does the Department define this?

Original songs are completely written and composed by you and/or a music group you are actively part of. Do not send in covers or songs that include samples from other artists.

What types of songs is the program requesting?

The program welcomes all genres and styles of music. However, songs that set a positive tone and are suitable for all audiences are preferred. City Council intro songs should be upbeat and suitable for audiences viewing TVSA ([link to TVSA](#)) and City Council meetings. Songs that celebrate the spirit, culture, and community of San Antonio, as well as themes like holidays, special occasions, seasons, and nature, are particularly great fits for this program.

Why do I need to create an Artist Registry Profile?

You must create an Artist Registry Profile to apply. This profile helps showcase your work and promotes local San Antonio artists. If you already have one, make sure it's up to date. Need help? Check out our [profile setup tutorial](#).

I'm part of a music ensemble/ band. Who should take the lead in applying?

If you're in a band or group, any member who lives in San Antonio can apply. Only one song per artist, group, or band will be accepted each round. The person who applies will be in charge of completing all the forms, setting up a vendor account with the City (to get paid) and splitting the payment with the group, if needed.

Do you have tips for filling out the application?

Yes! While studio recordings are not required, it's important that your submission is recorded in a quiet, controlled environment. Please avoid submitting live performance recordings. Songs that would be considered obscene, indecent, or profane under Federal Communications Commission (no obscene, indecent, or profane content guidelines will not be considered).

All songs that meet the requirements will be considered for the Local Music Spotlight Program. However, if you're hoping to have your song featured as a City Council intro song, please keep in mind the context of where it will be played. An ideal City Council intro song would be upbeat and carry a positive message. Mentioning San Antonio in the lyrics is always a plus, but it's not required—instrumental tracks are welcome too!

Where will my song be played?

If your song is selected for the Local Music Spotlight, it may be played on TVSA, the City of San Antonio's government access channel. It could also appear on the Local Music Spotlight webpage with a link to your Artist Registry profile and be added to the Local Music Spotlight Spotify playlist, as long as the content is appropriate for all ages.

Some songs may also be featured in Department of Arts & Culture promotions, such as social media reels or used as City Council intro music. There is no extra payment for these uses, but you'll be notified ahead of time and properly credited. If you're active on social media, we'll tag you in posts to help promote your music.

Who are the panelists that will review my application?

Panelists are members of the creative community and represent artistic and cultural stakeholders. Panelists review and competitively score applications that align with their area(s) of expertise. All panelists remain anonymous.

How will my application be evaluated?

Songs will be evaluated on four (4) criteria:

1. Originality: How well does the song exhibit the quality of being creative and not derived from another song?
2. Quality of Performance: Level of musicianship by the musicians and vocal performance, if applicable.
3. Quality of Recording: While recordings do not have to be studio recorded, we recommend submitting songs that have been recorded in a controlled space. Please do not submit recordings of live performances.
4. Enjoyment/ Feeling: How does the song affect the listener?

Panelists will review the song based on the criteria and rank each section from 1 to 5: 1 = Poor | 2 = Fair | 3 = Good | 4 = Very Good | 5 = Excellent. Maximum score of 20 points. Panelists will also assess whether the song is a good fit to be played during a City Council session.

When will I find out the status of my application?

You'll get an email as soon as your application is successfully submitted. After the panel reviews all submissions, you'll get another email letting you know if your song was selected or declined.

If my song is selected, when will I receive my honorarium pay?

If your song is chosen, you'll get instructions to set up a City of San Antonio vendor account. This usually takes 2–5 business days. Once your vendor number is received by our department, payment is processed in up to 30 business days.

If you have additional questions, please email Music@sanantonio.gov.