

**Morrison, Laura**


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**From:** Laura Morrison [laura.morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:59 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: COA arts funding  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Orange

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**From:** Laura Morrison [mailto:lc Morrison@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** 'Julia Austin'; 'chrisriley [REDACTED]'  
**Cc:** 'Susan Longley'  
**Subject:** RE: COA arts funding

Julia,  
 Thanks for contacting me. I hope you have seen the city staff's memo that went out yesterday to cultural arts grantees, explaining that the program will remain the same for this round of funding and we will take the time to consider the issues more carefully and ensure that we get things in place to assist organizations if the next process is problematic. I'd urge you to be in contact with staff to be part of the discussion. Let me know if you have any questions.  
 Laura

PS Finding the Observer in my mailbox is a real highlight for me each month! Thanks to all there for the great work.

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**From:** Julia Austin [mailto:austin [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2010 1:16 PM  
**To:** LAURA C MORRISON; chrisriley [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Susan Longley  
**Subject:** COA arts funding

Laura and Chris -

Sorry to harass you on your private emails, but I wanted to put in a word for The Texas Observer, which receives roughly \$20,000 from the COA Cultural Arts Funding Program, as you consider the fate of that funding. The Observer does bring in some tourism but we also add to the cultural value of Austin arts as a whole.

Just hoping you will vote to retain the rules from last year so we can continue to get that support!

Below is what I emailed to the council yesterday.

Many, many thanks for your attention and for your continued support of the Observer.

Julia

As associate publisher of The Texas Observer, I'm asking the City Council not to support tying all COA Art Funding to tourism spending. The decision is short-sighted because it's going to undermine the success of many, many organizations that contribute greatly to the world-class status of Austin's culture. And that means money in the long run for all artists in Austin, be they theater, literary, dance or fine arts. The Observer, for instance, is a nationally recognized magazine that hires Austin writers, artists, and poets. What we contribute is a forum for people that otherwise would have limited publication outlets. The quality of the magazine, which has published in Austin since 1954, also adds to Austin's reputation as a city that supports intellectual enterprise and the value of the First Amendment. Please consider keeping the scope of COA Arts Funding as inclusive as it has always been. It is a program that has been admirable in its understanding of what makes Austin an arts center and how to keep that happening.

Best,

Julia Austin

Julia Austin, Associate Publisher  
The Texas Observer  
307 W. 7th Street • Austin TX 78701  
512-477-0746 • 512-474-1175 fax  
[www.texasobserver.org](http://www.texasobserver.org)

Sharp reporting from the strangest state in the Union.

**Morrison, Laura**

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**From:** Laura Morrison [laura.morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:59 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: City council takes steps to make Formula 1 track a reality  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Orange

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Laura Morrison <laura.morrison@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Aug 5, 2010 at 7:31 PM  
**Subject:** City council takes steps to make Formula 1 track a reality  
**To:** Bill Spelman <spelman[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Barksdale English <Barksdale.English@ci.austin.tx.us>, Robert Levinski <Robert.Levinski@ci.austin.tx.us>

City council takes steps to make Formula 1 track a reality

This story is incredible. I think u need to give kvue and Trey s a call!

Laura

[http://m.kvue.com/kvue/db\\_39558/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SxnAg0rQ&src=cat](http://m.kvue.com/kvue/db_39558/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SxnAg0rQ&src=cat)

**Morrison, Laura**

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**From:** Laura Morrison [laura.morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:59 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: \*\*\*Summary of Shelter Candidates / Process\*\*\*  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Orange

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**From:** Laura Morrison [mailto:laura.morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 08, 2010 1:49 PM  
**To:** Mike Martinez  
**Cc:** Ryan Clinton; Laura Williamson  
**Subject:** Re: \*\*\*Summary of Shelter Candidates / Process\*\*\*

Ryan - thanks for bring us up to date.

I'll take MPT up on the suggestion to contact Bert soon.

Regards,  
Laura

On Mon, Nov 8, 2010 at 8:22 AM, Mike Martinez <inexmikeaustin@redacted> wrote:  
Ryan,

Thanks for your email and the info.

I share your concerns as well and spoke directly with Bert last Thursday about his timeline and decision. I specifically asked him to meet with me before making any final decision. Obviously, that wont be able to happen since I am out of town all this week but I do expect to at least speak to him before any decision can be made.

CM Morrison, maybe you can reach out to Bert this week and mention that we spoke and would like to hear from him before he makes any final decision.

We will stay in touch today and tomorrow.

Mike

On Nov 8, 2010, at 12:47 AM, Ryan Clinton wrote:

Mike & Laura,

I'm serving on a stakeholder-review committee tomorrow (Monday the 8th) for the new shelter-

director position, but wanted to share with you the information that I have gathered so far. The reason I'm sending this now is because it is my understanding that Bert intends to make the hire on Tuesday even though we will meet the candidates for the first time tomorrow and the public will meet them for the first time tomorrow night. That means that there will be little or no time to share information with you after the candidate interviews but before Bert makes his decision.

It is abundantly clear that there are only two fully qualified candidates: Dr. Ellen Jefferson of APA, and Abigail Smith of the Tompkins County SPCA. In very bad news, I have heard that Abigail was not able to make the trip to Austin for the interviews tomorrow because of a serious family emergency. City staff has reported that she "pulled out," but I do not know whether that means she simply couldn't make the trip, or that she's no longer interested in the position. My sincere hope is that Bert will delay the hiring process to give Abigail an opportunity to interview. This position is too important to be rushed when such a qualified candidate is available.

Here are my thoughts on the candidates:

**Abigail Smith:** Executive Director of the open-admission Tompkins County SPCA, which is the open-admission shelter for the county in Ithaca, New York. Abigail's shelter has a 96% save rate, which is the highest of any open-admission shelter in the country. This is the shelter that Nathan Winograd took from a failing shelter to a no-kill shelter in 2002. Abigail has had this position since 2007, and was a speaker at the No Kill Conference in Washington, D.C.

**Dr. Ellen Jefferson:** I know you both know Ellen well. She is the only candidate with the understanding of what needs to happen in Austin. She has first-hand knowledge of the shelter and already has plans to make things right. She will be able to start helping animals on day one. She also has experience both on the intake side (low-cost spay/neuter) and on the outcomes side (adoptions/foster/rescue).

Then there are the other candidates:

**Linda Haller:** She has been out of work since June 2009; she was then the Chief Animal Services officer in El Dorado, CA. Even though the shelter only took in 3,000 animals/year, she had a kill rate of 50% total and 73% for cats. Before that, she was at the Hawaiian Humane Society, which had a 54% kill rate (75% for cats). And before that she was at the Orange County (FL) Animal Services, which had a kill rate of 68% overall (78% for cats). At Orange County, she was reprimanded for "incompetence", and her boss forced to resign, after she failed to call a dog's owner before killing it: [http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1991-04-25/news/9104250149\\_1\\_animal-control-officer-bucksnort-monroe-county](http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1991-04-25/news/9104250149_1_animal-control-officer-bucksnort-monroe-county). NOTE: I was told today that Linda is staff's **#1 choice** because she's "just like Dorinda."

**Julie Seal:** Has been out of work since her last job was eliminated, where she was a fundraiser for an autism-related group in California. Before that, she spent less than a year as a fundraiser for the Sonoma County Humane Society. Before that, she spent 9 months as a fundraiser for the Arizona Humane Society. Before that, she founded a rescue group in Phoenix called "Rescue AZ." The rescue's website says that the county shelter "has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the nation. This is not [the shelter's] fault."

**Laura Hinze:** According to PAWS Chicago's website, Laura is the director of the organization's spay/neuter clinic. That has been verified by calls to others in the animal-welfare arena. Her cover letter, however, takes credit not only for spay/neuter surgeries, but also for the

organization's live outcomes, heavily implying that she's the Director of Operations over the entire shelter, not just the spay/neuter clinic. It is my conclusion that her cover letter is at best highly misleading as to her role in live outcomes. In any event, PAWS Chicago is a fairly small no-kill shelter in Chicago.

Hope this helps,  
Ryan

## Morrison, Laura

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**From:** Laura Morrison [laura.morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:59 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Laura  
**Subject:** FW:

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Orange

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Laura Morrison [mailto:lcmorrison@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2010 11:48 AM  
**To:** 'grace.corpus@ci.austin.tx.us'  
**Cc:** 'Tara.long'; 'Sheryl Cole'  
**Subject:** RE:

I've been trying to keep Monday and Tuesday's calendar clear but for Sheryl  
:) I'm willing to open it up if she thinks we need to make it before Wed.

Have a great Thanksgiving you all!  
Laura

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Sheryl Cole [mailto:cole.sheryl@redacted]  
> **Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2010 8:54 AM  
> **To:** Laura Morrison  
> **Cc:** Tara.long  
> **Subject:**  
>  
> I need to get with Laura early next week to talk about NAACP banquet,  
> comp plan, Psh, and police monitor.

**Morrison, Laura**

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**From:** Laura Morrison [laura.morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:59 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting recap and to-do list  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Orange

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**From:** Laura Morrison [mailto:Laura.Morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 7:21 PM  
**To:** 'Susan Moffat'; 'kds'; 'kbtovo'; 'spelman'; 'dgreen51@austin.rr.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting recap and to-do list

Thanks Susan ... and Kathie and Karen for all your dedication and energy for this amazingly challenging issue.

Please add that re PreK I am contacting Catherine Morse, General Counsel/Head of Public Affairs for Samsung to discuss potential for biz Pre-K involvement. Since this is the one follow up I did today, I wanted to get it on the list. She and I are now in the phone tag stage.

Laura

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**From:** Susan Moffat [mailto:];  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 4:12 PM  
**To:** kds; kbtovo; Laura.Morrison@gmail.com; spelman; dgreen51  
**Subject:** Meeting recap and to-do list

Hi all,

Great meeting this morning! Thanks for taking the time to help think through this mess.

In what's probably an excess of caution, I'm sending this to Bill and Laura's personal email accounts, not the city ones. Laura/Bill, I'll let you decide how best to get it to Bobby, Barbara, Mark N and other appropriate staff.

Here's the recap of the main areas we identified, with volunteers indicated. My notes are a bit fuzzy about the breakdown between Bill and Laura on the city end so I hope your respective offices can sort this out.

Karen, I know you're already off and running, but can you please be sure that Dr. Carstarphen is briefed on all of this? Just don't want any surprises.

**I. Pre-K.** This is a good place for the city to plug in, perhaps in partnership with Chamber. City could possibly take up some slack with pre-K. Chamber could collaborate with Jason Sabo (United Way lobbyist) and Libby Doggett (Success By 6) to enlist local businesses/individuals to sponsor pre-K kids.

**To Do:**

- a. **KDS** - Find out cost of pre-K per child per year, brief Carstarphen since ask for either campaign or COA partnership would need to come from district, contact Libby/Jason/Chamber if district is okay w/ it.
- b. **LM** - Explore possibility of using COA resources to offset lost AISD pre-K.

**2. Alternative Learning Center/Boys & Girls Club.** For district to sell ALC, Boys & Girls Club would need to be relocated. Millennium Center is rethinking its programming to enhance use, is located nearby, and might be willing to house this program. New LifeWorks building is also a possible location.

**To Do:**

- a. **KDS** - Brief Dr. Carstarphen before meeting with mayor re Millennium Center possibility; also check with LifeWorks.
- b. **LM/BS** - Identify who's in charge of rethinking Millennium's programming and explore feasibility of housing Boys & Girls Club there on city end.

**3. Interlocal Agreement for Tax Trade-off.** Is it possible to create an interlocal agreement whereby the city could raise its taxes with a set-aside for schools coupled with commensurate drop in AISD taxes? Tax bill for citizens would remain the same, but the money collected by the city wouldn't be subject to recapture under state law. Challenges: the COA boundaries encompass up to 8 school districts so such an agreement would need to be proportional to be fair.

**To Do:**

- a. **LM/BS** - Chase this from the city end to determine feasibility/legality.
- b. **KDS** - Brief Carstarphen before meeting with mayor.

**4. Possible business partnership to house AISD IT employees.** AISD currently spends \$438,216 per year leasing space for 124 Information Services employees. Could Chamber/mayor help find a business partner among local tech companies to provide space pro bono? Current office size is 33,347 square feet. Lease expires 4/30/13.

**To Do:**

- a. **KDS** - Brief Carstarphen since ask would need to come from district.
- b. **a. LM/BS/KDS** - Talk up with Chamber or related groups to gauge willingness (should be more palatable than TRE or commercial property tax adjustment!).

All for now. Many thanks to everyone!

Best,  
Susan

**Morrison, Laura**


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**From:** Laura Morrison [laura.morrison@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:59 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: Oct. 27th ANC mtg  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**From:** Laura Morrison [mailto:lc Morrison@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 9:31 AM  
**To:** 'jbasciano'; 'Sheryl Cole'  
**Cc:** 'Bobby Levinski'; 'Stephanie McDonald'; LauraCC Morrison (laura.morrison@ci.austin.tx.us); 'grace.corpus@ci.austin.tx.us'  
**Subject:** RE: Oct. 27th ANC mtg

Hello Joyce,

Thank you for making time for us on the ANC agenda next week. I certainly appreciate the challenge of full ANC agendas and I'm sure we will be able to have a productive dialogue with 20 minutes.

Can you please let us know where we will be on the timeline for the meeting when that gets settled?

Thanks,  
 Laura

PS Please change my contact info to my city address ([laura.morrison@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:laura.morrison@ci.austin.tx.us)). The prodigy email is finally, after many years, going away!

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**From:** jbasciano [mailto:jbasciano@redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2010 10:52 PM  
**To:** 'Laura Morrison'; Sheryl Cole  
**Cc:** 'Bobby Levinski'; Stephanie McDonald  
**Subject:** Oct. 27th ANC mtg

Dear Council Members Morrison and Cole,

The Executive Committee of the Austin Neighborhoods Council set aside 20 minutes for a presentation/Q&A at our general membership meeting Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> regarding Permanent Supportive Housing.

I realize that you wanted at least 30 minutes but our agenda is quite full. We will encourage our members to email you their suggestions as to how to make Permanent Supportive Housing work in neighborhoods across the City.

We are hoping that Mayor Leffingwell will join us that evening to discuss the actions he plans to take on single member districts. We also hope to have Ryan Robinson come share some of his findings on the 2010 Census. There will also be a discussion on the Comprehensive Plan.

As always, you can come early (6:45 pm) and stay late (9 pm).

Thank you,

Joyce Basciano, VP (Programs)  
Austin Neighborhoods Council  
512-454-0207

**[REDACTED]**