

**Job Title:**

HouArts in Action Economic Development Working Group Lead *(1-Year Contract)*

Location:

Greater Houston Area *(Hybrid: Remote + In-Person Meetings)*

Reports To:

HouArts in Action Working Groups Coordinator

Contract Term:

August 2025 – July 2026

Compensation:

\$24,000 (1-year, part-time, contract position)

About HouArts in Action

HouArts in Action is a collaborative, region-wide initiative designed to strengthen Greater Houston's arts and culture sector through strategic advocacy, expanded partnerships, and unified messaging. Building on work by Houston's seven state-designated Cultural Districts and a sector-wide Task Force, this effort aims to put arts on the agenda. We are mobilizing ambassadors from across the ecosystem to communicate arts and culture as an essential driver of the region's economic growth, community vitality, and civic identity.

Through a community-driven process, the arts community came together in 2024-25 to craft a platform and strategy to champion the arts. This platform identifies four key areas of focus: Public Funding, Vibrant Spaces, Economic Opportunity, and Effective Storytelling. Learn more at houarts.org.

Position Summary

To drive the HouArts in Action platform forward, working groups will be created to support each platform focus area. The Economic Development Working Group Lead will guide and facilitate the HouArts in Action Economic Development Working Group. Art is not possible without artists and creatives, many of whom report challenges maintaining and scaling their creative practices. The Economic Development Working Group will work to champion solutions that help artists and creatives stay in Houston. This working group focuses on:

- Supporting artist and creative workforce development
- Strengthening connections between creatives and regional economic opportunities
- Advancing strategies for sustainable creative careers

The group's work is aligned with the HouArts in Action community-developed goal of: Facilitating pathways to prosperity for artists and creatives by improving funding and connectivity to resources, training, and spaces that enable sustainable creative careers right here in the Houston area.

Key Responsibilities

Lead the Economic Development Working Group

- Host a minimum of four Economic Development Working Group meetings per year to develop and implement a group action plan
- Host a monthly meet-up or discussion group on the topic of Economic Development
- Advance HouArts in Action's key Economic Development strategies:
 - Distribute information on evolving policy and regulations, as well as existing grant and commercial opportunities at the Local, County, State and Federal levels.
 - Advocate for participation and integration of local artists and performers into activations for conventions and special events.
 - Seek to identify and facilitate public funding for workforce development initiatives within arts and culture, with a focus on supporting and training local artists to be eligible for major activations and installations.
 - Remove policy barriers and explore opportunities to facilitate the development of artist live & workspaces across the region.

Participate in HouArts Governance

- Attend monthly meetings with the HouArts in Action Task Force
- Report regularly to the HouArts Working Groups Coordinator
- Ensure clear communication and coordination with other working groups

Support Events and Public Engagement

- Serve on the planning committee for the October 2025 State of the Arts event

- Contribute to the visibility and impact of advocacy campaigns and policy efforts
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Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in workforce development, creative economy initiatives, small business support, or artist services
- Familiarity with Greater Houston's economic development landscape and arts ecosystem
- Proven ability to lead and convene diverse stakeholder groups
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a regional, multi-partner environment
- Commitment to advancing equity and sustainability in the arts sector

We understand that not all strong candidates will meet every listed qualification. If you are enthusiastic about this opportunity and believe you bring relevant skills or experience, we encourage you to apply. We value diverse backgrounds and perspectives and look forward to learning how you can contribute to this work.

Contract Details

- Part-time, contracted position (independent contractor status)
 - Paid monthly
 - Flexible schedule; must attend scheduled meetings
 - Contractor provides their own workspace and equipment
 - Responsible for personal tax reporting
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How to Apply

Submit your cover letter and resume to hello@houarts.org by July 14, 2025.

Please include "Economic Development Working Group Lead Application" in the subject line.