

**Job Title:**

**HouArts in Action Vibrant Spaces 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)

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**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](https://houarts.org).

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**Position Summary**

To drive the HouArts in Action platform forward, working groups will be created to support each platform focus area. The Vibrant Spaces Working Group Lead will guide and facilitate the HouArts in Action Vibrant Spaces Working Group. Vibrant street-life and cultural spaces are the lifeblood of neighborhoods, reflecting unique character and sustaining economic activity. The Vibrant Spaces Working Group will work to ensure

that existing spaces are supported, and collaborate on efforts to make streetlife more vibrant through integrating local artists, musicians and creatives into the region's urban fabric. This working group focuses on:

- Supporting cultural spaces and street-level activation
- Integrating creative professionals into neighborhood and urban design
- Advancing strategies that sustain the region's cultural character and public life

The group's work is aligned with the HouArts in Action community-developed goal of: Encouraging activation and preservation of the cultural spaces that make our neighborhoods distinctive through public sector initiatives that integrate local artists, musicians, creatives, and arts organizations into the region's urban fabric.

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## **Key Responsibilities**

### **Lead the Vibrant Spaces Working Group**

- Host a minimum of four Vibrant Spaces 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 Vibrant Spaces
- Advance HouArts in Action's key Vibrant Spaces strategies:
  - Partner with management districts, TIRZs, and county precincts across the region to support plans for vibrant streetlife in public spaces, including parks. Identify opportunities to better integrate local artists and performers into programming and activations.
  - Encourage activation of ground level storefronts with art displays, starting with buildings owned by the city, county, and other public entities. Encourage leaders to explore innovative models activate vacant commercial properties, leveraging partnerships with landowners and local business associations.
  - Work towards full ADA accessibility in cultural facilities, museums, and surrounding streetscapes by collaborating with city agencies, disability advocates, and designers to address physical, sensory, and communication barriers.
  - Work with policymakers to facilitate the easy activation and rentals of publicly owned community centers and cultural facilities, with a focus on streamlining and simplifying booking processes.
  - Collaborate with local and regional planning entities to explore strategies to incentivize developers to embed cultural spaces in new

construction and preserve existing creative spaces by leveraging deed restrictions and district-based protections.

- Explore the creation of low-cost policy interventions that can reduce barriers to artists, such as musician loading zones.

### **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 placemaking/keeping, creative placemaking/keeping, urban design, or public space activation, particularly involving artists and cultural organizations
- Knowledge of Greater Houston's arts ecosystem, urban planning landscape, and public sector partnerships, including familiarity with entities like management districts, TIRZs, and planning departments
- Demonstrated success in convening and facilitating cross-sector stakeholder groups to develop and implement shared goals or action plan
- 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.

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## **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](mailto:hello@houarts.org) by July 14, 2025.  
Please include "Vibrant Spaces Working Group Lead Application" in the subject line.