

AJS Inducts Hart in HoF

AUSTIN, TX - The Austin Jazz Society (AJS) Inducted Pamela Hart in the Hall of Fame on Sunday, April 8. The ceremony was held in conjunction with their monthly concert series held at Chez Zee Gallery. Pamela joins such outstanding past honorees as Dr. James Polk, Gil Askey, Martin Banks, Erbie Bowser, Timothy Curry, Ernie Mae Miller, Pat Murphy, and Kenny Dorham and more. The award was presented to Pamela by her husband, Kevin Hart, who is a Board Member of the Austin Jazz Society. Pamela attributes her accomplishment to people who supported her journey. This includes her mother and family; Austin booking agents such as



Pamela Hart

Mike Mordecai who gave her exposure; the Austin Community such as KAZI and Roger Brown who played her songs; AustinWoman Magazine; the City of Austin and Texas Commission on the Arts that partially funded Women in Jazz Association, Inc.; the Women in Jazz Association, Inc.

Board of Directors and volunteers, her loving friends, and her number one supporter Kevin Hart!

Pamela is highly regarded as Austin, Texas' finest jazz vocalist. She is noted by Austin Women's Magazine as "Austin's First Lady of Jazz." In addition to regular appearances at Austin clubs, restaurants,

live music broadcasts, weddings, banquets/parties and festivals, Pamela and her husband Kevin Hart have produced (and she has performed in) the semi-annual Women in Jazz Concert Series—the greatest events for female jazz musicians in Texas—1994 through 2017. The series also includes a Vocal Performance Workshop where Pamela and other professional vocalists and musicians share performance techniques, communicating with musicians and many other aspects of jazz singing.

Pamela is keen on keeping jazz vocal music alive. "The jazz vocalist has the freedom to take you on a musical journey riding on instrumental cords while interpreting meaningful lyrics. It's a space where you can be free to be yourself and make a song your own." Pamela joined the Black Arts Alliance in 1991 and introduced to them the Black Women in Jazz Project. In 1994, Pamela and Kevin Hart founded the Women in Jazz Association, Inc. with a mission to keep jazz alive.

The organization has been growing ever since providing concerts, vocal workshops, and youth programs geared towards jazz education and performance. Pamela also spends some time coaching young singers to understand that singing is not just with the voice; but it is done with music elements along with your whole person—your body and soul. She has provided jazz vocal workshops at the Carver Museum, Children's Museum, Doss Elementary, Davis Elementary, Sims Elementary, Crockett High School, and in private residences.

It was Dr. James Polk who gave Pamela the opportunity to perform in European jazz festival tours including the Montreux, Vienna, and Juan des Pins Jazz festivals, with the Texas State University Jazz Band he directed. Pamela also worked with Dr. Polk at the International Association for Jazz Educa-

tors' conferences in Toronto and California, the Corpus Christi Jazz Festival and most of the Women in Jazz concerts.

Pamela has keen business sense. For her personal music business, she and her husband Kevin Hart, formed HartBeat Productions in 1993. This production company manages Pamela Hart's booking, recording and marketing as well as, concert production engagements.

Pamela Hart has received many awards for her community work as a jazz supporter. These include the Connie Yerwood Conner National Woman of Achievement Award, and Jazz at St. James' A.D. Mannion Award, Texas State University Outstanding Alumni Award, Links Austin Chapter Arts Award, and the BOSS Award of Distinction.

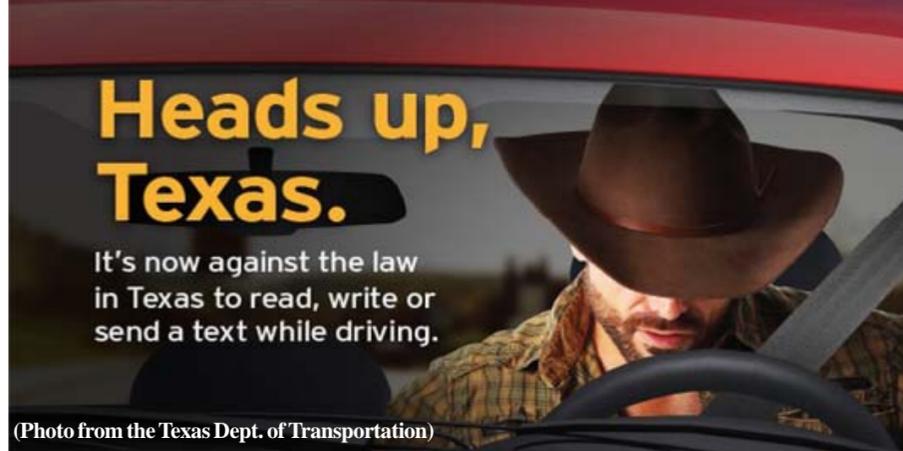
With her performances, the Women in Jazz Association, Inc., vocal performance workshops, and vocal coaching, Pamela is making a difference in the Austin jazz scene.

TxDOT LAUNCHES 'HEADS UP, TEXAS' CAMPAIGN

TxDOT partners with AT&T It Can Wait to educate Texans on statewide law, dangers of distracted driving

AUSTIN, TX – April is National Distracted Driving Month and with nearly 1 in 5 crashes in Texas involving distracted driving – a ratio that has not changed in the past three years – the Texas Department of Transportation reminds drivers that their undivided attention to the road could save a life.

"It's extremely concerning that drivers still choose to give their attention to things other than the road when they're behind the wheel," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "As a society, we're more connected



(Photo from the Texas Dept. of Transportation)

than ever to our devices and easily tempted to multitask, but drivers need to understand all of these various distractions can lead to a tragic outcome."

In 2017, 19 percent of vehicle crashes on Texas roads involved distracted driving. Those 100,687 crashes resulted in 444 deaths and 2,889 serious injuries. In an effort to curb distracted-driving crashes, TxDOT is launching its new "Heads up,

Texas" campaign in partnership with AT&T *It Can Wait*. The centerpiece of the campaign is a 19-city, distracted-driving virtual reality experience launching in Waco on April 4.

According to AT&T *It Can Wait*, the majority of Texans ages 15-54 admit to driving distracted because of their smartphone. Additionally, nearly all Texans surveyed consider smartphone distractions to be dangerous while driv-

ing, but nearly 9 out of 10, or 89 percent, admit they do it.

"The *It Can Wait* campaign shares a simple message: Distracted driving is never OK," said Ryan Luckey, assistant vice president of Corporate Brand Marketing for AT&T. "We're proud to join TxDOT in sharing that message with Texans through revealing survey data and events that highlight the dangers and the new law."

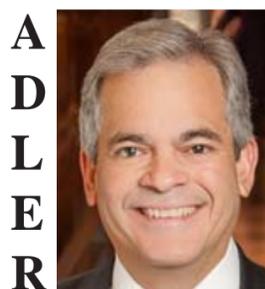
Effective Sept. 1, 2017, a texting-while-driving ban was written into law making it illegal to read, write or send a text while driving in Texas. Violators can face a fine up to \$200. Though texting while driving is now punishable by law, it's not the only smartphone activity putting Texas drivers and passengers at risk. Among those Texans surveyed by AT&T *It Can Wait*, the top 5 smartphone distractions while driving are:

- Texting
- Snapping/viewing photos
- Playing music
- Emailing
- Accessing social media

To learn more about TxDOT's "Heads up, Texas" campaign, visit txdot.gov/driver/share-road/distracted.html.



MAYOR ADLER PROPOSES NEW METRICS RECOMMENDED BY NONPROFIT MEASURE



AUSTIN, TX — On March 26, Mayor Steve Adler made an amendment to a City Council Resolution Number 47 to include specific evidence-based policing metrics in the consideration of any future contract with the Austin Police Department. These metrics were provided by area nonprofit MEASURE, and included the collection of data about reductions in Use of Force and Deadly Force, Officer suspensions for misconduct, and Percent of Officers with a history of misconduct, among others.

This modification is an achievement for the advocacy community in Austin that argued against the renewal of the police contract without the addition of metrics that could evaluate how well the police force was serving all segments of the community, and whether the Austin Police Department was making any progress towards the over-criminalization of the Black community in Austin. Some of the recommended performance measures include percent reduction in overall Use of

Force and Deadly Force; percent and number of interactions leading to critical incidents; and percent of Officer suspensions for misconduct where suspension is not overturned or reduced upon appeal.

"We have to be strategic in our advocacy against police brutality. We begin this process by establishing, then exposing, the metrics that have the potential to preserve life." Said Meme Styles, President of MEASURE "These measures should have been collected decades ago."

Women in Jazz Association, Inc. Presents

Let's Duet

A Springtime Dinner & Concert

Sunday, April 22, 2018
Sterling Event Center
6134 U.S. 290 East Frontage Road
Austin, Tx 78752

5:00 PM Cocktails on the Patio
6:00 PM Dinner Served (gratuity included)
7:00 PM Let's Duet Concert Featuring

Jacquie Cross Pamela Hart Andre James Tatiana Mayfield Courtney Santana

Accompanied by: Ryan Howard-Piano; Mike Stevens-Bass; Terrance McDaniel-Drums
Mike Malone-Saxophone; and Andre Hayward-Trombone

Attire: Cocktail Casual

Reserve by April 12, 2018

For reservations and complete details visit www.letsduetwjj.eventbrite.com

Tickets | \$65 per person, plus service fee

For more information, 512-258-6947 or visit www.womeninjazz.org