



Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission

FY 2017 Budget Request

May 16, 2016



Background & Purpose

October 2013: City Council creates Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission (AAQOL)



to advise the City Council on issues related to the Asian American Resource Center and provide on-going guidance and support for the City's Asian American quality of life initiatives

First Steps... AAQOL Assessment Project

- **August 2014:** AAQOL assessment project initiated
- **September 2014:** AAQOL assessment committee formed
- **November 2014:** AAQOL initiative launched
- **December 2015:** Surveys completed
- **March 2016:** Preliminary results
- **Spring 2016:** Community outreach & engagement
- **May 2016:** Final report
- **Summer 2016:** Project completion (est.)

Purpose of AAQOL Assessment Project

The initiative focuses on:

- **Quality of Life Data Indicators:** Assessment of health, quality of life issues and service needs
- **Quantitative Research:** In partnership with Dr. Yuri Jang with UT Austin's School of Social Work, a comprehensive questionnaire was completed in several languages
- **Outreach & Engagement:** Small and large facilitated community discussions and other participation opportunities ("Conversations over Tea")

Budget development process

- Heard public testimony and held meeting with stakeholder groups
- Recommended budget was screened by City of Austin staff for costs estimates, duplication, and feasibility
- Budget requests were prioritized and approved by the Commission for submission to city council

Budget request summary

Initiatives	Total request	Percent of total
AARC	\$864,000	23.2%
Engagement/Outreach	\$100,000+	2.7%
Economic Development	\$60,000	1.6%
Health/Human Services	\$2,439,377	65.5%
Human Resources	\$260,049	7.0%

Budget request highlights - AARC

- Support increasing demand for facility rentals and reservations (\$58,000)
- Provide additional access to the Senior Meal Program, including driver + van (\$81,000)
- Site master plan (\$200,000)
- Park improvements, including sidewalks, seating, playscape, and workout equipment (\$300,000)
- Parking & pedestrian bridge (\$130,000)
- Marketing & outreach support (\$85,000), including FTE + translation/interpretation (\$10,000)

Budget request highlights – Civic Engagement

- Create multi-language City of Austin website in Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese (Cost – TBD)
- Increase budget for translation/interpretation in all departments (Cost – TBD)
- Additional Community Engagement Consultant in CPIO (\$100,000)

Budget request highlights – Health/Human Services

- Flu vaccines for language challenged (\$6,000)
- Two-year Pilot Community Health Navigator program (\$150,000/yr)
- Increase Health Equity contract funding to provide culturally-appropriate mental health services to Asian immigrants (\$150,000)
- Asian American Community Mental Health Project (\$99,377)

Budget request highlights – H/HS (cont.)

- Outreach team within the HHSD Equity Unit focused on culturally- and linguistically-appropriate services to the Asian American community (\$300,000)
- Continue AISD Parent Support Specialist (PSS) Program funding (\$1,300,000)
- AISD Prime Time after school funding increase (\$430,000)

Budget request highlights – Human Resources

- Support unmet need request for three FTEs to support expanding the diversity of our workforce and equity recruiting (\$284,049)
- Recruiting, travel, programming, and outreach (\$76,000)

Budget request highlights – Economic Development

- Asian American Chamber of Commerce parity & support EDD unmet need request (\$60,000)

Policy recommendations

The following policy recommendations are related to areas of AAQOL interest & support but without a specific monetary ask:

■ Purchasing/SMBR

- Improve program policies and implementations based on the feedback recorded in the NERA Disparity Study and work closely with MWBE communities, including the minority Quality of Life Advisory Commissioners
- Establish a citywide contract to translate written documents into Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese – the city currently has a contract in place for Spanish translations

Policy recommendations (cont.)

- Human Resources
 - Continue work on outreach & increasing Asian American hiring & promotion
 - Require cultural competency training for HR staff & liaisons in all departments
- Education
 - Support ESL programs for Asian subpopulations

Policy recommendations (cont.)

- Health/Human Services
 - Include Asian Americans in data & statistics reporting
 - Provide culturally- & linguistically-appropriate services
 - Continue support of city, county, and AISD collaborative family resource centers and programming
 - Work with AISD and Travis County to develop an International Welcoming Center that provides a comprehensive approach to directing refugees to services and information

Conclusions

- Austin's Asian community is the fastest growing Asian community of any of the nation's largest 30 cities
- Asians make up over 7.0% of Austin's population putting Austin in 9th place among the nation's largest 30 cities and ahead of Houston
- 37% Chinese, 51% Vietnamese, and 50% Koreans speak English less than "very well" – these are the 2nd, 3rd and 4th largest Asian communities in Travis County
- Income stratification between AA communities and language barriers tend to skew many statistics

Conclusions (cont.)

- Using a standard SMI index, 44.2% of surveyed individuals had mental distress – the prevalence rate was highest for Vietnamese and Korean, two communities with significant language barriers
- The newness and rapid growth of this community requires the coordination, support, and leveraging of city resources – 16.9% live in poverty

Conclusions (cont.)



Austin represents two sides of Asian migration to the U.S. Some Asians are highly educated with high incomes. Some Asians face English language barriers, access to public resources, and knowledge of U.S. social systems.

