



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017

African American Resource Advisory Commission **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) **is:** *to advise the City Council on issues related to the Quality of Life (QOL) for the City's African American community and recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic and vocational pursuits, including: health care; housing, including affordable housing, home ownership and homelessness; entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; employment; and cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries and music venues. The Commission also advises the Council on matters related to the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility and the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center.*

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

In support of our mission, the 15-member African American Resource Advisory Commission, during the 2016-17 year, maintained its momentum from the previous year by involving the community in conversations, our monthly meetings and open forums that addressed issues affecting the quality of life of African Americans in the City of Austin. Our effort this year was primarily focused on the research and development of our comprehensive recommendation for the FY18 City of Austin budget. This budget recommendation was vitally important as it effectively addressed needs in each of our six focus areas: health care; housing, including affordable housing, home ownership and homelessness; entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; employment; and cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries and music venues. We

received valuable input during this process from the community during each of our monthly meetings and through presentations with City of Austin Department leaders. The Commission also discerned the resources available in our community to support the initiatives presented in our budget request by meeting with non-profit leaders and service providers in our community.

The AARAC engaged the community in briefings and transformational dialogue concerning the historical preservation of East Austin, safety and the current and projected effects of gentrification. One special meeting, in collaboration with President Burnette, was held on the campus of Huston-Tillotson University. Our conversations throughout the year included presentations from the Austin Police Department Chief Art Acevedo and Assistant Chiefs, Senior Planners with Neighborhood Housing, City Manager Marc Ott, Travis County Historic Commission, Austin Independent School District, The Spirit of East Austin and the Austin Area Urban League.

The AARAC in 2016-17 again recommended and appointed Commission members to represent the AARAC on the Joint Inclusion and Joint Culture Commissions.

The AARAC welcomed the City of Austin Equity Officer, Mr. Brion Oaks. Our Commission received updates concerning the progress and plans for the Equity Office. The AARAC also had Commissioners participating with the Equity Action Team, working to create the equity assessment tool. Commissioners continue to be involved in the evolution of the Equity Office.

The AARAC hosted briefings concerning the preservation and celebration of African American culture with the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex, Urban Music Festival, Six Square, Visitor Impact Task Force, Greater Austin Black Chamber and the City of Austin Cultural Programs Division.

The AARAC in 2016-17 received briefings from the City Demographer, CodeNext and Austin Energy concerning the quality of life of African Americans in the City of Austin along with population, income, housing and energy cost/consumption trends.

The AARAC received accountability updates from organizations who received funding because of AARAC FY17 budget recommendations.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

During the 2016-17 calendar year, the AARAC's action were compliant with the Commission's Mission Statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

The major goals and objectives of the AARAC for the new calendar year will continue to be developed over the next few months as we establish new leadership. However, the AARAC will continue to focus on areas of inequity and inequality in the African American community, including the sufficient allocation of funds in the City of Austin budget, the completion of the original phases (II &

III) of the George Washington Carver Museum, Education and the development of the Eastern Crescent.

The AARAC's goal is to increase awareness and education in the African American community concerning these issues. The AARAC will continue to collaborate with agencies, the City of Austin, the faith community and other resources to increase the number of preventive measures and opportunities available to the African American community. The AARAC will remain faithful to our mission and consistently provide guidance to the City Council on ways the City of Austin can support and lead in these efforts.