



## ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Dear Austin Parks Foundation,

Please consider this letter of support for the Asian American Resource Center Nonprofit's (AARCN) Community Grant application. The Asian American Quality of Life (AAQoL) Advisory Commission advises the City Council on issues related to the Asian American Resource Center (AARC) and provides ongoing guidance and support for the City's AAQoL initiatives. The AARCN's proposal supports both the City's Asian American Quality of Life Initiative to improve the life of the Asian American population in Austin as well as the AAQoL Advisory Commission's goal for Asian American residents by providing spaces, services, resources, and programs through an Asian American Pacific Islander perspective at the AARC facility.

Austin's Asian Americans make up more than seven percent of the population and is the fastest growing population in Austin. To address the increasing impact of Asian Americans, the City of Austin has worked with the AAQoL Advisory Commission and community organizations like the AARCN to understand and improve challenges regarding access to City resources, including the AARC facility. As part of this effort, the City purchased outdoor exercise equipment for the AARC facility, with support from the Commission. Utilization of the AARC facility has dramatically increased since opening in 2013. In FY2017 total attendance was 52,776 including seniors and children who would benefit from the exercise equipment.

The AARCN proposed improvements to the AARC Great Lawn builds on the AARC Master Plan supported by the AAQoL as well as the Network of Asian American Organizations. Funding from APF for the AARC Great Lawn project will support the installation of outdoor exercise equipment as well as the construction of additional park features—boulders, fencing, benches—that will make the lawn a more usable public space for the community. The AARCN proposal gives particular consideration to the needs of low-income seniors, who will be using the equipment when participating in other activities at the AARC facility. By supporting these improvements, APF will help create a showcase for the importance of thoughtful consideration of culture, spaces, and accessibility to serve all members of our community.

On April 17, 2018, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission approved supporting the AARC Nonprofit grant application to the Austin Parks Foundation. We hope you approve the grant application and take advantage of the Great Lawn enhancements.

Sincerely,

Vincent Cobalis, Chair  
Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission