



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 7/05/2018**

### **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 2017-18 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 FY19 City of Austin budget. This budget recommendations are vitally important as they effectively addressed needs in each of the strategic outcomes that have a direct impact on the quality of life of the African American population, the strategic outcomes: economic opportunity & affordability; mobility, safety, health and environment, culture and lifelong learning, and government that works for all.

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

During the 2017-18 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 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 goals are, but not limited 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, business entrepreneurs, community activist, and other resources to increase the number of preemptive 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 the Quality of Life of African Americans in Austin Texas.

- A goal of the AARAC is to ensure the completion of the Carver Complex.
  - A goal of the AARAC's is to recognize more unseen Austin Black History makers, similar to, Mr. William Astor Kirk.
- A goal for the AARAC's Youth and Education workgroup is to collaborate with Austin ISD, Huston Tillotson University, Austin Community College, and other community stakeholders to improve educational achievement of African American students.
- A goal for the AARAC's Solar and Economic workgroup is to expand the workgroup to include members of other commissions to build a broader coalition around reducing energy cost while increasing access to clean energy sources.
- A goal of the AARAC's is to ensure the City of Austin sustains a highly diverse workforce through out the ranks of management, and other assignments with leadership opportunities.
- A goal of the AARAC's is to ensure the Diaspora of African American culture is celebrated, comprehended, acknowledged, touched, appreciated, while exhibited throughout Austin Texas,

Areas of focus for the AARAC includes affordable housing, home ownership and homelessness; entertainment opportunities for professionals and students' achievement; employment; and cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries and music venues.

We received valuable input throughout this process from various segments of community during each of our monthly meetings, and through presentations with City of Austin Department leaders. In the FY 19 budget the Commission purposefully indicated the value of cultural competent when selecting services and vendors as resources 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 Austin Revitalization Authority, was held at the offices of ARA a long standing community partner. There the AARAC consciously selected the the Carver Museum complex completion as project of focus. Our conversations throughout the year included presentations from the Austin Police Department Interim Chief Brian Manley and Assistant Chiefs, Senior Planners with Neighborhood Housing.

The AARAC was instrumental in the creation of the joint resolution with both the Asian and Hispanic American Resource Advisory Commissions, which addresses funding of commission initiatives. The AARAC in 2017-18 again recommended and appointed Commission members to represent the AARAC on the Joint Inclusion and Joint Culture Commissions.

The AARAC consulted with the City of Austin Equity Officer, Mr. Brion Oaks and staff. 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 participated in off line advocacy through meetings with each council person office, and the City Manager's office. Another level of advocacy was championed by attending many 2018 Bond Advisory Commission through the city speaking on the behalf of the Carver Complex. The AARAC was well represented in Austin Texas search for a new police chief

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, Hamilton House, Greater Austin Black Chamber and the City of Austin Cultural Programs Division.

The AARAC Education workgroup met with Austin ISD Superintendent and staff to discuss data and methods of collaboration.

The AARAC in 2017-18 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 input from community organization oppose the implementation of Code next.

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