

On Sep 7, 2018, at 4:42 PM, Cobalis, Vincent - BC <[bc-Vincent.Cobalis@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-Vincent.Cobalis@austintexas.gov)> wrote:

Dear Workgroup leads;

I'm sending a separate email to the full Commission, but I would like to start to consider changes to the Commission workgroup structure. To that end, can you send me an email with your analysis of how your workgroup fits into the 6 Council Strategic Outcomes:

**Vice-Chair Saxena:**

1. Economic Opportunity and Affordability,  
Business WG  
HR WG
2. Culture & Lifelong Learning,  
AARC Oversight WG  
Arts & Culture WG
3. Health & Environment,  
Health WG
4. Safety,
5. Government that Works for All,  
Community Engagement WG
6. Mobility.

**Commissioner Chen:** HR being support services, very naturally aligns with #5, government that works for all. HR is the backbone that supports all departments in recruiting and hiring the best available and qualified employees to serve citizens. However, components of HR can also be found in #1, economic development and affordability (EEOC), in particular housing equity issues. The learning and research center (LRC) addresses employee learning and development, organizational research, and aligns with the lifelong learning aspect of #2. Lastly, although risk management does not deal with Public Safety delivery per se, this division works with other departments regarding construction project safety compliance, and is indirectly related to #4 safety.

## **Community Engagement Work Group (Commissioner Conte)**

*Government That Works For All:* Believing that city government works effectively and collaboratively for all of us—that it is equitable, ethical and innovative.

Mission Statement for the CEWG: The Community Engagement Work Group (CEWG) is dedicated to fostering the enhancement and involvement of the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Community within the social fabric of City of Austin services and programs.

The Work Group is guided by the following core principles:

Diversity: Demonstrating respect for all individuals and valuing the unique perspectives and experiences of the API community

Community Engagement: Working collaboratively with community members and organizations to achieve positive social change

Inclusion: Breaking down barriers to meaningful participation and fostering a sense of belonging and access to city services

Social Justice: Challenging injustice and working toward an equitable society

The Community Engagement Work Group has defined four focus areas: (1) education access, (2) targeted engagement to seniors, the API community, refugees, and organizations that serve us, (3) community dialogue, and (4) direct participation in city issues

**Commissioner DasGupta:** The AAQoL Oversight workgroup for the AARC meets each month at the center to discuss the ongoing work at the center, discuss any issues that might emerge and provide support as needed.

**1. Economic opportunity and availability:**

AARC is now housing an HR representative to provide assistance to people who seek it with regards to searching, finding and preparing for jobs.

**2 Culture & Lifelong Learning:**

Several cultural pgms are organised each year at the center. Local Asian organisations also hold cultural events at the center. Artists and groups with programs from Asian countries are hosted at the center. Opportunities are provided on an ongoing basis to local artists interested in exhibiting their art. The center also has classrooms for rent to be used for language and other skills.

**3. Health & Environment:**

A Health navigator program was started here by the AARC non-profit group in an effort to connect those in need of medical assistance to services that are available. Senior meals are provided to in an effort to provide them with a space to socialize. There are also exercise and dance classes held here as well as the opportunity to engage in other activities such as table tennis.

**4. Safety:**

The workgroup, through the commission, has requested the city council for funding for a bridge to connect an adjoining parking lot to provide extra parking for visitors, This would ensure safety as attendees would not be required to walk along the sidewalk or cross the street during events.

**5. Government that works for all:**

Working with CoA on hiring staff to ensure equity and to represent all Asians. The workgroup has also been relaying all staffing needs to the commission so that can be included in the annual budget requests that are made.

**6. Mobility:**

The center provides transportation services from parking areas during events that draw large crowds. The center has purchased a van for senior support