

Follow-up response by Parks & Recreation Department to questions from 3/19/19 presentation

1. Explanation of the new Recycling program and how it affects AARC. The PARD Recycling Program's objective is to develop, fund, and implement comprehensive strategies, policies and procedures to implement recycling at all Austin Parks and Recreation facilities. Fully implementing recycling in PARD facilities will make recycling more visible to the community and will have a meaningful impact on waste diversion, in support of the City's Zero Waste goal. As funding allows, AARC, as well as other PARD facilities, will receive more recycling receptacles; and eventually, there will be informational/educational events taking place at all major PARD facilities, more than likely including the AARC.
2. More details on the revenue decline at AARC from 2017 - 2018, with suggestions on ways to improve revenue and utilization. Shubhada asked if there are some ways to collaborate with the Community to have more events. The decrease in revenue was due to less building rentals. The AARC had two major events in FY17 that did not book in FY18 (Central Texas Bengali Association Durga Puja and The Isha Foundation Inner Engineering Total Workshop). The Durga Puja event was held at another location in FY18 because they needed a larger space, but they have returned to AARC. The Isha Foundation is a nationwide organization that had their annual conference in Austin. On the other hand, program registration at the AARC has increased from 2017 – 2018. The AARC collaborates with many organizations and groups to host events that are relevant to the community. With new staffing and now a full-time permanent Marketing Rep, the AARC is in a better position to identify new groups for event collaboration.

In addition, I'd like to know your planned budget for language translations and interpretation, at AARC and the rest of the Department. Any other information about actions you are planning to respond to the Equity Tool analysis would also be appreciated. PARD has conducted a preliminary equity tool analysis and has developed a preliminary action plan. Details can be found on the Equity Office webpage: [Equity Action Team Dashboard](#)

We estimate 500 hours of interpretation needs for FY2020. That comes out to approximately \$33K (\$65/hr. for interpretation). As for translations, Sona (AARC Manager) is working with Houmma (Language Access Coordinator at the Public Information Office) to see if she can set aside some funds so the AARC can translate some of its promotional materials. This probably won't be finalized until August. Yes, that is correct, services for translation and interpretation have been activated to track expenses.