

AARC Workgroup meeting 10/12/2012, Noon  
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Laura Esparza (PARD), Sona Shah (AARC/PARD), Bianca Xoyamayagua-Galvan (AARC/PARD), Jae Kwon (AARC/PARD), David Nicks (PWD), Christina Bies (PARD), Vince Cobalis (AAQL/Workgroup Chair), Kirk Yoshida (AAQL Chair), Schiller Liao (NAAO, community member), Thuy Nguyen (community member), Phil Hoang (community member), Debasree Dasgupta (NAAO, community member)

- NAAO Donor Wall – Schiller Lao visited on-site with AARC staff. Staff will put in a work order to power wash the wall (they already power washed the rest of the Zen Garden). Tiles were originally designed to lay on the wall, but it's difficult to keep them adhered to the wall. Propose changing tiles to aluminum, or something else lightweight and durable. This is also an opportunity for NAAO to increase the number of tiles for future AARC expansion. Schiller will follow-up on getting a contractor to work on the new tiles.
- Staff transition and current vacancies
  - Sona Shah is moving to a new position as **Equity and Inclusion Manager at PARD** reporting directly to the PARD Director. Congratulations, Sona!!!
  - AARC has 4 full-time permanent position vacancies (including Sona) and they've been filling in with temporary or acting staff. Working through Human Resources at PARD is challenging, since they also have vacancies. **Bianca will share job postings for these positions, so Workgroup members can help recruitment efforts.** City Human Resources had a designated space at AARC on Wednesdays pre-pandemic to assist people with job assistance. HRD is currently assisting job seekers at three different locations, including Workforce Solutions Capital Area (North) 9001 N IH 35, Suite 110A, 78753. See flyer for more information.
- Update on re-opening and program updates
  - Still have HR presence, but off site see note above. AARC is publicizing this via newsletter. Need to get their reports.

- AARC is open to the public by appointment only. Limited [senior programs](#) on site, continuing to do virtual and in-person events.
  - [Stories with our Elders](#) series started last Saturday, good attendance with 33 participants and 17 kids.
  - [Four exhibits installed](#) at AARC, hosting in person [fall exhibit reception](#) on October 22, 2021.
  - Hosting an archiving series for the family - [Stories from the South](#) starts October 16<sup>th</sup> will be virtual.
  - Discussed the possibility of creating a series of workshops that can help elders, or their caregivers, navigate the systems: e.g. Medicare/Medicaid, Health Insurance, etc.
- Phase II contract negotiation updates – Trahan close to complete execution of contract. Kickoff with stakeholders will hopefully be early November. Still finalizing CMAR contract with Flintco, they were the builders of AARC Phase I.
- Community Engagement Plan Final: Laura Esparza will lead with Jae and Bianca's assistance (add to future meeting invite). David has inserted Trahan's community engagement scope. AARC staff will also focus on Limited English speaking communities. Plan should be complete in draft form to share with Workgroup and others. Christina, needs to double-check approval and will email. Hoping to start engagement in November. Might observe community celebrations first of the year, as a way of understanding the community.
- Watershed Protection Plan (update?)  
Here's the project website for Watershed that includes the presentation and project timeline: <https://www.austintexas.gov/LittleWalnutAARC>