

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment;

CBQ NO.: 100

REQUESTED BY: (District 6) Krista Laine

DATE REQUESTED: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 1:08 PM

DATE POSTED: Thursday, August 6, 2026

REQUEST:

The number of visits to educational and cultural facilities has been declining overall since 2023. Can you please provide a breakdown of each cultural and educational facility's attendance between 2023-present?

RESPONSE:

Variations in visitation between Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and 2026 reflect several operational and reporting factors rather than a consistent decline in public participation across all facilities. These factors include improvements to attendance data collection methodologies, staffing transitions that affected the consistency of program reporting at select facilities, temporary facility closures or construction activities, and changes to major events and programming. Several facilities also experienced operational disruptions that reduced public access during this period.

Site	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY2026 YTD
African American Cultural and Heritage Facility	Historical attendance records were unavailable for FY23-25. Austin Public Library confirmed with ACME they did not have attendance records for prior years and did not track visitor attendance while they operated the facility in FY25.			2,462
Asian American Resource Center	36,846	37,902	34,757	38,051
Dougherty Arts Center	75,547	72,283	71,071	57,504
Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center	17,073*	11,270*	12,750*	10,710*
*Facility closed for major construction. Programming continued through off-site locations. The facility reopened to the public in June 2026.				

George Washington Carver Museum, Genealogy & Cultural Center	28,617	28,181	14,811 (Staffing transitions affected attendance reporting consistency during 2025. Data collection practices have since been standardized.)	18,482
Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex	56,111	48,180	59,600	50,139
Elisabet Ney Museum	18,796	19,880	23,213	8,089 (Closed for construction. Limited public programming continued at off-site locations.)
Old Bakery & Emporium	43,799	41,312	30,660	15,264 (Attendance reflects reductions in partner programming, including budget changes affecting the DAA's Christmas Stroll event.)
Brush Square Museums	9,173	13,765	12,871	14,354
Beverly S. Sheffield (Zilker) Hillside Theater	49,969	69,254	50,650 (Attendance was impacted by the implementation of paid parking during the summer season)	60,343